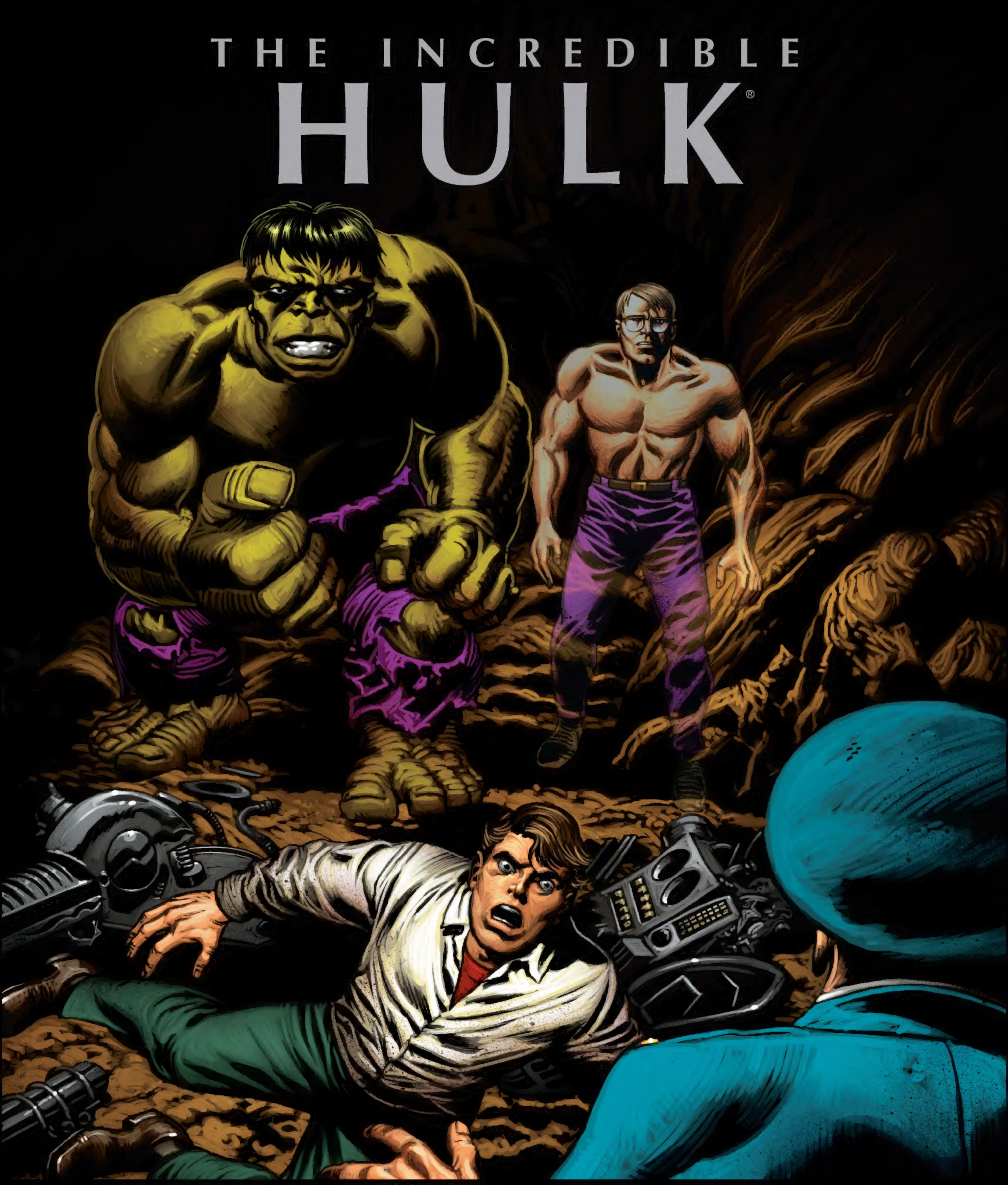
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®



MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE, STEVE DITKO & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

VOLUME 2

COLLECTING

TALES TO ASTONISH Nos. 59-79

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TALES TO ASTONISH Nos. 59-79

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INTRODUCTION
BY STAN LEE

Greetings, True Believers!

It's great to have this chance to rap with you once again, especially when the subject is ol' Greenskin and everybody's favorite size-challenged super hero, Giant-Man, or, as he was originally known in Marvel's merry, mixed-up past, Ant-Man.

Many of today's readers aren't aware that way back in the dimly remembered '60s, we tried to give the halcyon hordes of comicdom more than their money's worth by having books like *Tales to Astonish,* which featured not one but two sensational super-hero thrillers.

Okay, that's the excuse we gave at the time. Of course, the truth is—we were turning out so many books each month that our top artists like Kirby and Ditko and Ayers and Everett just couldn't make those yarns long enough to fill a whole mag without their other strips being late. So, because we didn't wanna deprive the panting public of some of their favorite heroes, we just made the stories half the usual length and put two in each book. Oh, the sacrifices we made so that you would never get less than your necessary supply of super-hero sagas!

Since I'm levelin' with you now, let me answer some questions that our frantic fans have been tossing at us for years. Of course, with my rotten memory the answers may not be 100% accurate, but at least you'll know I tried.

Lots of you have wondered why the original six-issue Hulk series, in which our jolly green giant had the whole mag to himself, was dropped, especially when it was so popular. The truth is, Jack Kirby, who started the strip with me, was also drawing the Fantastic Four, the Mighty Thor and countless other features and just didn't have the time for all of them. So we figured the Hulk could afford to be dropped for a while because he was the strongest, and strong men don't cry!

But, since we didn't want to completely lose him, we decided to let him share a book with someone else, so his stories would only have half the usual number of pages. And, because we're known for our sneakiness, we sneaked Hulky into a Giant-Man story as though he was only a one-time foe for Mr. Pym, knowing everyone would beg to see more of him. So, by putting him in as a regular feature starting with the next ish, we made everyone happy—which, as you know, is our only aim in life!

Some fans wondered why Bruce Banner's alter ego was made the secondary hero in "Tales to Astonish." Truth is, he wasn't the secondary hero. We gave star billing to both Giant-Man and the Hulk. In fact, we often alternated the order of the strips and the covers. Sometimes the Hulk was the first strip and sometimes he got the biggest billing on the cover, and sometimes it was vice versa. Hey, Marvel is known worldwide for its fairness—and modesty, of course.

You've probably noticed that there are subtle changes in any comic-book characters depending on who the artist is. Many fans have commented about the fact that the Hulk, as depicted by Jack Kirby, always seemed incredibly savage and powerful, while Steve Ditko's version—although equally powerful—seemed to portray him as being a bit more thoughtful, more cerebral. I'm tempted to say that Steve himself is a very thoughtful guy, but there's no way I'm gonna call Kirby a savage, so we'll just let it go at that.

Most of the questions posed to guys in the comic-book biz involve the villain. Every issue of any comic-book title usually features the same hero or heroes, and they're pretty much the same from ish to ish. But there's always a new villain, a colorful villain, a dangerous villain, and the fact that the villains don't appear with the same regularity as the heroes makes them more mysterious, more surprising and more provocative.

But, I'll let you in on a little secret. There's a real problem with creating great villains. You see, in order to make the story interesting and to make you worry about the hero's fate, we have to create villains that are, or at least seem to be, more powerful and more dangerous than the hero. Think of it—how interesting would it be if the Hulk had to fight a petty thief? Whoever the Hulk battles has to be someone who has a chance of defeating him, or else there's no story.

So that's why, no matter who the hero is, whether it's the Hulk, Giant-Man, Sub-Mariner or any other of our plethora of dazzling do-gooders, the writer (in those days, me) had to dream up super-villains who would have the potential of clobbering our heroes. And if you think that's an easy task, lemme tell you it's the reason that my few remaining hairs have turned gray!

One final question that I'm often peppered with has been: "Since the Hulk was always being pursued and threatened by General Ross and the U.S. military forces, were you trying to get some sort of political message into those stories?"

My answer is a thunderous, deafening, resounding "No!" Just think about it for a moment. Here we have the strongest living being on Earth. Nothing can harm him. Nothing can stop him. But we have to put him in danger somehow. Who or what could be powerful enough to give him something to worry about? It hadda be the Army, right? I never tried to make the troops look like bad guys. They were heroic soldiers doing their duty. And General "Thunderbolt" Ross wasn't a bad guy, either. He truly believed it was his duty to destroy the green-skinned monster who was a menace to our whole nation. And I really liked the idea of Ross's daughter being in love with Banner. It gave me so many personal angles to play with. But subtle political messages? No way! When I get political, Bunky, I'm not subtle or shy. I shout it from the rooftops!

But enough talk. There are some really cool strips waiting for you just ahead. I've delayed you long enough. So go get 'em, tiger—I'm with you all the way.

EXCELSIOR!

2004

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND. 59 SEPT.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK ...BATTLES GIANT-MAN

Watch for The Big SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT In This Issue !!

ANOTHER MARVEL FIRST!!

THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY STORY EVER DRAWN IN WHICH THE HERO (GIANT MAN) NEVER SEES OUR UNEXPECTED MYSTERY VILLAIN!

SPECIAL BONUS FEATURE...

"Let's Learn About HANK and JAN!"

DON'T MISS THE WONDERFUL WASP AND HER DEATH-DEFYING MISSILE RIDE!!

GIANT-MAN and the Wonderful WASP

"ENTER: THE HULK"

OUR UNUSUAL TALE BEGINS WITH A MEETING OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL FIGHTING TEAM-- THE AVENGERS!

MY TRANSISTOR-POWERED PORTABLE PROJECTOR IS WORKING BETTER THAN EVER! LOOK AT THESE NEWSREEL SHOTS OF THE HULK BATTLING SPIDER-MAN!*

I WONDER WHAT EVER *BECAME* OF THE HULK! I CAN'T HELP FEELING *SORRY* FOR HIM!

I WONDER HOW *HE* FEELS ABOUT *US* RIGHT NOW?

1000 lbs.

* FOR THE DETAILS OF THAT MEMORABLE BATTLE, SEE *SPIDER-MAN #14* -- EDITOR.

RAPIDLY WRITTEN BY!
STAN LEE

DASHINGLY DRAWN BY!
DICK AYERS

INSTANTLY INKED BY!
RREINMAN

LAZILY LETTERED BY!
ART SIMEK

NOT VERY FAR AWAY, ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN, A BITTER MAN NAMED *DAVY CANNON* READS A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF GIANT-MAN'S RECENT VICTORY OVER *COLOSSUS!**

WELL, WELL, SO MY OLD "*PAL*" GIANT-MAN IS HOGGIN' THE HEADLINES AGAIN, IS HE? I WONDER IF HE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT *ME?*

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THAT *THE HUMAN TOP* WAS FREED ON PAROLE LAST WEEK!

DAILY NEWS

*EXCLUSIVE!!** NEW GIANT-MAN ADVENTURE!*

THE-REPORTER-DISPATCH

*GIANT-MAN DOES IT AGAIN!***

COLOSSUS DEFEATED BY GIANT-MAN!

*REFER TO *TALES TO ASTONISH* #55 -- EDITOR.

I REMEMBER OUR *LAST* BATTLE! I MADE HIM LOOK *SICK* ON THE ROOFTOPS!*

TALES TO ASTONISH #55-- EDITOR.

I'D HAVE LICKED HIM WITH MY "*TORNADO FUNNEL*" IF HE HADN'T LANDED ON SOME HIGH WIRES!

"*MY BIGGEST MISTAKE* WAS THINKING HE WAS *CLUMSY!* BOY, HOW WRONG I *WAS!* BUT I'LL NEVER UNDERESTIMATE HIM *AGAIN!*"

"*HE FINALLY BEAT ME* WHEN THE ROOF COLLAPSED UNDER ME! I'LL NEVER KNOW *WHY* IT DID!"*

TO THIS DAY, THE *TOP* DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT THE *WASP* ORDERED A GROUP OF *TERMITES* TO WEAKEN THE ROOF!--EDITOR.

GIANT-MAN IS THE *ONLY* ONE EVER TO BEAT ME--AND I'LL NEVER REST TILL I PAY HIM *BACK* FOR IT! HE CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH *MORE* DANGEROUS I AM *NOW* THAN I WAS!

"*WITH MY SUPERHUMAN SPINNING POWER, I'VE LEARNED TO FOCUS THE FORCE OF THE AIR PRESSURE I GENERATE INTO A STREAM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BLAST A HOLE IN A BRICK WALL!! AND I'VE LEARNED NOT TO WEAR THAT OLD STUPID COSTUME WHICH MADE ME TOO EASY TO RECOGNIZE!*"

WHOOOOSH!

BUT LEAVE US LEAVE THE *TOP* WITH HIS BITTER THOUGHTS, AND TURN BACK TO THE *AVENGERS*, WHOSE MEETING HAS JUST ENDED...

YOU MEN GO AHEAD! I'M GOING TO STAY HERE A WHILE LONGER!

ALONE WITH THE WASP AT AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS, THE GIANT-SIZED ADVENTURER ONCE MORE STUDIES THE FILMED ACCOUNT OF THE *HULK'S* LAST RECORDED BATTLE...

COME ON, BIG BOYFRIEND -- LET'S GO OUT TO DINNER! WE'VE SEEN THIS FILM A DOZEN TIMES!

I *KNOW*, JAN! I JUST CAN'T GET THE *HULK* OUT OF MY MIND! WELL, WE'LL TALK ABOUT HIM WHILE WE LEAVE!

DON'T BOTHER TAKING A GROWTH CAPSULE, HONEY! I'LL "*THINK*" YOU BACK TO NORMAL SIZE, JUST AS I DO FOR MYSELF!

HENRY J. PYM!! I *ASKED* YOU NOT TO *DO* THAT! YOU'RE JUST SHOWING OFF WITH YOUR NEW CYBERNETIC MENTAL SIZE CONTROL, THAT'S ALL!

JUST IGNORE THOSE STREET CORNER WOLVES, HANK! THEY'RE NOT BOTHERING ME ONE BIT!

MAYBE *NOT*, JAN -- BUT THEY'RE SURE RUBBING *ME* THE WRONG WAY! OH WELL -- I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THEM!

HEY, BOYS!! LOOK AT THE LIVIN' *DOLL* WALKIN' WITH THAT SQUARE!

HEY, SISTER! WHY DON'T YOU DITCH THAT ITCH AND DATE A *REAL* MAN?? NAMELY *ME*!

MMMM -- COULD THAT TOMATO AND *ME* MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC?!!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO *WEARIN'*? LONG UNDERWEAR??!

C'MON, LET'S *FOLLOW* 'EM AND SEE WHA --WHA-- *HOLY HANNAH!! LOOK!!*

IT'S *G-GIANT MAN!!*

OKAY, LOUD-MOUTHS!! IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR A LITTLE *ACTION*, I'LL SEE IF I CAN *OBLIGE* YOU!

I NEVER SAW HANK DOUBLE HIS SIZE SO *FAST* BEFORE!

EXACTLY TWO MINUTES LATER--

AWW, COME BACK! DON'T LEAVE US LIKE THIS!

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN, AND WE HADDA PICK ON GIANT-MAN!

BUT, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES HAVE ALSO WITNESSED THE INCIDENT IN THE STREET BELOW! THE EYES OF-- THE HUMAN TOP!

BOY! WHAT A BREAK! THE TWO PEOPLE I MOST WANTED TO FIND! NOW, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!

I'LL FOLLOW THEM, AND KEEP THEM IN SIGHT UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR ME TO GET MY REVENGE ON THAT OVERGROWN CLOWN!

AND SO, SPINNING SO RAPIDLY THAT THE HUMAN EYE CANNOT POSSIBLY SEE HIM, THE TOP RACES FROM HIS APARTMENT AND BEGINS HIS PURSUIT OF GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP!

IF I FOLLOW THEM LONG ENOUGH, SOONER OR LATER I'LL GET THE OPPORTUNITY I WANT!

GOSH, HANK --IT'S SO WINDY ALL OF A SUDDEN! LET'S GET TO THE RESTAURANT FAST!

SORRY, JAN! FORGET ABOUT DINNER FOR NOW! WE'RE TAKING A TRIP INSTEAD! WE'LL EAT ON THE PLANE!

205

WHY? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO NEW MEXICO! THE HULK WAS LAST SEEN THERE--AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO REST TILL I'VE FOUND HIM, AND TRIED TO TALK HIM INTO REJOINING THE AVENGERS!

WELL, WELL! THAT SOUNDS REAL INTERESTING! I THINK THE HUMAN TOP WILL JUST JOIN THEM!

A FEW HOURS LATER...

FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELTS, PLEASE! WE'RE ABOUT TO LAND!

THE HULK IS SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!

THERE THEY GO! IT'LL BE A CINCH TO KEEP 'EM IN SIGHT! THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY FOR THE HUMAN TOP!

IT'S A GOOD THING I'M SO AVERAGE LOOKING! I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO DISGUISE MYSELF!

HANK, NEW MEXICO IS A MIGHTY BIG STATE! WHERE WILL YOU START SEARCHING?

THE AIR FORCE MISSILE BASE, JAN! THE HULK WAS LAST REPORTED IN THAT VICINITY! I THINK GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS WILL REMEMBER ME!

GATE

LATER, A RENTED HELICOPTER LANDS AT THE BASE...

EASY ON THE TRIGGER, JOE! HE SEES US! HE'S LANDING!

LOS DIABLOS MISSILE BASE

GIANT-MAN! WE DIDN'T KNOW, SIR!

TAKE ME TO GENERAL ROSS, SOLDIER!

AND SO...

THEN YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY TRACE OF THE HULK FOR WEEKS, GENERAL? BUT I THOUGHT...

LOOK, MISTER--I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT RAMPAGING MENACE TO LAST ME A LIFETIME! I'VE GOT A FEW OTHER LITTLE THINGS TO DO, LIKE RUN THIS MISSILE BASE! BUT I'LL ASK ONE OF MY CIVILIAN SCIENTISTS TO HELP YOU!

SOMEONE GET BRUCE BANNER HERE--ON THE DOUBLE!

MP

THERE HE IS NOW! DR. BANNER, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE HULK! I'M TRYING TO FIND HIM, AND GENERAL ROSS THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HELP! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER PHOTOS!

WASP! GET THAT WHIRLYBIRD OFF THE FIELD! THIS ISN'T A BLAMED PARKING LOT!

SORRY, GIANT-MAN! I CAN'T HELP YOU! I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE HULK--AND I CARE LESS!

OKAY THEN--WE'LL SEARCH FOR HIM IN OUR OWN WAY! BUT IF YOU DO HEAR OF HIM--CONTACT ME VIA MY SPECIAL AVENGERS' BAND SHORT WAVE!

SO! THE AVENGERS ARE STILL SEEKING THE HULK, EH? WILL THEY NEVER LEAVE HIM IN PEACE??

BRUCE! WHAT'S WRONG! I SAW GIANT-MAN SPEAK TO YOU AND THEN YOU LOOKED SO ANGRY!

NOTHING'S WRONG, BETTY! EVERYTHING'S WRONG! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE! YOU'RE THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER, AND I'M A HUMBLE ATOMIC SCIENTIST--WITH A SECRET I CAN NEVER REVEAL TO A LIVING SOUL!

BRUCE--WAIT! COME BACK! BRUCE, MY DARLING! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU THIS WAY BEFORE! WAIT!

POOR BETTY! I LOVE HER FAR TOO MUCH TO INVOLVE HER IN MY PROBLEM! HOW COULD SHE KNOW--HOW COULD SHE EVEN SUSPECT--THAT THE MAN SHE KNOWS AS DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER IS, IN REALITY, THE INCREDIBLE HULK??!

SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG--I KNOW IT! I CAN'T LET HIM DRIVE OFF LIKE THAT! I'LL GET MY CAR AND FOLLOW--HE MAY NEED ME!

HIS MIND IN A TURMOIL, NEVER DREAMING THAT GIANT-MAN HAS COME TO HELP THE HULK, BRUCE BANNER DRIVES INTO THE HILLS, A BURNING RAGE IN HIS HEART!

I'VE TRIED TO FORGET THE HULK--TO PRETEND HE NEVER EXISTED! BUT THEY WON'T LET ME--!!

NO! I MUSTN'T GET EXCITED! I MUSTN'T LET MY BLOOD PRESSURE RISE! WHEN IT DOES, I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF! I--BEGIN TO CHANGE--

--INTO--THE HULK!!

AND THUS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK APPEARS ONCE MORE!! THE STRONGEST LIVING MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! A RAGING HUMAN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION AND WRATH!

SO!! GIANT-MAN SEEKS THE HULK, DOES HE??

WITH A BELLOW OF SHEER ANIMAL RAGE, THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS IN THE WORLD PROPEL THE HULK SKYWARD, IN THE FIRST OF HIS MANY PRODIGIOUS LEAPS--SO HIGH, AND SO FAST THAT HE SEEMS TO BE FLYING!

WELL, HE'LL FIND THE HULK--TO HIS EVERLASTING REGRET!!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, PANIC SEIZES A NEARBY TOWN...

LOOK! IT'S THE HULK!

RUN! RUN! THE HULK IS HERE!

SOMEONE SEND FOR THE ARMY!! ONLY THEY CAN STOP HIM!

BUT, AMONG THE FEARFUL TOWNSPEOPLE, THERE IS ONE WHO SMILES WITH GLEE...

ALL THE BREAKS ARE FALLIN' MY WAY! THE HULK IS WHAT I NEED TO FINISH OFF GIANT-MAN!!

MEANWHILE, GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS'S LOVELY DAUGHTER, BETTY, COMES UPON BRUCE BANNER'S OVERTURNED VEHICLE ALONG THE LONELY MOUNTAIN ROAD...

BRUCE'S JEEP! IT'S BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT!! THAT MUST MEAN-- OH NO--NO!!!

BUT, THERE'S NO SIGN OF BRUCE!! WAIT! THESE GLASSES-- HIS TORN COAT!! AND THOSE FOOTPRINTS!! THEY CAN ONLY BELONG TO-- THE HULK!

IT CAN ONLY MEAN-- THE HULK HAS TAKEN HIM-- THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR HIM!

LOOKS LIKE HANK AND I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!

SEARCHING THE AREA ATOP A FLYING ANT, IN HIS ORIGINAL IDENTITY AS ANT-MAN, THE ASTONISHING ADVENTURER CRIES OUT...

THERE IS A CHANCE, MISS ROSS!

GIANT-MAN! BUT WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?? HOW--??

EXPLANATIONS ARE TOO BORING! BUT I KNOW THE HULK-- HE WON'T HARM YOUR BOY FRIEND WITHOUT CAUSE, NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM!

I'LL FIND HIM AND PROVE IT!

MEANTIME, THE *HUMAN TOP* SPINS JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN--WAITING FOR THE *HULK* TO APPEAR!

HE'S *GOT* TO COME THIS WAY SOON --AND WHEN HE *DOES*--!

I'LL *STOP* HIM AND MAKE HIM AN OFFER! WITH HIS STRENGTH AND *MY* BRAINS, WE'LL BOTH FINISH OFF GIANT-MAN *EASY*!

AND, IF THE HULK *REFUSES* ME, I'LL HURL MY SPEED BLAST AT HIM! IF IT CAN SHATTER A *BOULDER*, IT OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF ANYONE THAT LIVES!

BUT, EVEN THE HUMAN TOP DOESN'T SUSPECT HOW *FAST* THE HULK CAN LEAP! AND, THE RAMPAGING CREATURE APPEARS BEFORE THE TOP HAS TIME TO EVEN STOP HIS SPIN!

I'VE GOT TO FIND *GIANT-MAN!!* I'LL FINISH HIM *FOREVER!*

NOTHING WILL STAND IN MY WAY!! *NOTHING!* *NOTHING!!*

IT'S *HIM!!* BUT-- HE'S CRASHING INTO THAT *PEAK!* HE'S *TOPPLING* IT! I NEVER DREAMT HIS STRENGTH WAS *SO* GREAT!

ONLY BY SPINNING AT MAXIMUM SPEED CAN THE TOP CREATE A WIND SCREEN DENSE ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIM FROM THE FALLING BOULDERS!

AND, BY THE TIME THE HULK HAS GONE...

I *MISSED* MY CHANCE! BUT I'LL CATCH UP WITH HIM *YET!*

THEN, THE VERY MAN THE HULK IS SEEKING SEES *HIM* FIRST!

THERE HE *GOES!*

I'VE BEEN CARRYING THIS TINY CARBON-DIOXIDE POWER ROCKET FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION!

BY TRANSFORMING MYSELF TO ***ANT-MAN,*** I'LL BE ABLE TO ***RIDE*** IN IT--AND DE-SPITE ITS SIZE, IT HAS SUPER-SONIC SPEED!

IT'S GOOD FOR ONLY ***ONE*** BRIEF USE BEFORE ITS POWER IS GONE, BUT THAT'LL BE ENOUGH FOR ***ME!***

THE HULK IS HEADING FOR THE NEXT TOWN! I'VE GOT TO REACH THERE BEFORE ***HE*** DOES!

SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND GIANT-MAN! HE'S TOO BIG TO HIDE FROM ME MUCH LONGER! I'LL SEARCH EVERY TOWN TILL I'VE ***GOT*** HIM!

MY MINIATURE MISSILE IS SO SWIFT, AND SILENT, THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN ***NOTICE*** IT ROCKETING PAST HIM!

MADE IT! NOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE THE HULK ***LISTEN*** TO ME WHEN HE GETS HERE!

FIRST THING TO DO IS ***EVACUATE*** THE TOWN! THIS ***BILL-BOARD*** WILL HELP DO IT!

STANDICK
MOTOR OIL
BEST FOR YOUR GAR!

ROLLING THE BILLBOARD UP LIKE PAPER IN HIS MASSIVE, DOUBLE-SIZED HANDS, GIANT-MAN USES IT AS A *MEGAPHONE* .....

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!! THE *HULK* IS COMING! EVACUATE THE TOWN!! *EMERGENCY!*

THE *HULK* AT LARGE AGAIN?? CAN WE *BELIEVE* HIM?

BELIEVE HIM?? MISTER, THAT'S *GIANT-MAN!* HE DIDN'T COME HERE TO PLAY *GAMES!*

WITHIN SECONDS, A MASS EXODUS BEGINS OUT OF THE SMALL TOWN...

ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND THE TOWN WILL BE EMPTY! AND NOT AN INSTANT TOO SOON!

NOW I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE BEING HURT WHEN HE AP-PEARS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE HIM THAT MAN-KIND *ISN'T* HIS ENEMY! IF ONLY HE'LL GIVE ME THE *CHANCE!*

AND, JUST AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE LITTLE TOWN, AS THE HULK PREPARES TO MAKE THE FINAL LEAP WHICH WILL BRING HIM TO THE MAIN STREET--

HULK! WAIT--! I'VE SOMETHING TO *TELL* YOU!

THE HULK WAITS FOR *NOBODY!!*

BUT THIS IS *IMPORTANT!!*

BAH! NOTHING IS IMPORTANT TO THE HULK!!

HOLD IT, YOU BRAINLESS FOOL!! CAN'T YOU SEE-- I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU?!!

ONLY MY SPEED BLAST CAN SAVE ME!! THERE!

NOW TO TALK FAST, BEFORE HE ATTACKS ME AGAIN!

I KNOW YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GIANT-MAN! HE'S IN THE TOWN JUST AHEAD, WAITING TO AMBUSH YOU! YOU MUST STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING--DON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE!

IT WORKED! HE FORGOT ABOUT ME-- HE TOOK OFF LIKE A MISSILE!! NOTHING CAN SAVE GIANT-MAN NOW!

NOBODY CAN AMBUSH THE HULK! I'LL MAKE THE AVENGERS WISH THEY HAD NEVER HEARD OF ME!

SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT NOW I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS THE END OF GIANT-MAN! I SEE A MILITARY CONVOY HEADING THIS WAY!

AND, JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS BARKS A COMMAND AS THE HUMAN TOP SPINS TOWARDS HIM--!

CONVOYYYYY-- HALT!! SOMETHING IS APPROACHING!!

EITHER I'M LOSING MY MARBLES, OR IT'S A MAN-- SPINNING AROUND AS FAST AS A TOP!

NEVER HAVING HEARD OF "THE HUMAN TOP", THE GENERAL WATCHES INCREDULOUSLY UNTIL...

I'VE COME TO WARN YOU! THE HULK IS IN THE TOWN AHEAD OF YOU!

THE HULK??! ARE YOU CERTAIN, MAN??

YES SIR! THE ENTIRE TOWN HAS BEEN EVACUATED! IT'S EMPTY--EXCEPT FOR THE HULK!

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE TO STOP THAT RAMPAGING MENACE FOR GOOD!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE BATTLE-WISE MILITARY LEADER SENDS OUT SCOUTS, AND WHEN THEY RETURN...

THE REPORT IS CORRECT, SIR! THE TOWN HAS BEEN EVACUATED! ALL THE INHABITANTS HAVE FLED TO SANDY POINT, IN THE NEXT DISTRICT!

BUT THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--TO RID THE WORLD OF THE HULK!

EXACTLY TWO MINUTES LATER, THUNDERBOLT ROSS'S COMMAND CAR RACES TO THE LEAD TANK...

I HEARD FROM COMMAND HEADQUARTERS! THEY AUTHORIZE USING A NUCLEAR WARHEAD SHELL!

THAT MEANS PLAN B! TAKE YOUR STATIONS, MEN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, THE HULK AND GIANT-MAN FINALLY MEET FACE TO FACE!

THE HULK! AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU!

WRONG, MISTER! I FOUND YOU--AND NOW I'M GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT I DO TO MY ENEMIES --NO MATTER HOW BIG THEY ARE!

HAHAHA!

WAIT!! DON'T BE A FOOL! I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU--TO OFFER YOU--

IT WON'T WORK! YOU CAN'T TRICK ME! YOU'RE MY ENEMY--ALL MEN ARE MY ENEMIES!!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, WITH THE FORCE OF A THUNDERBOLT, THE INCREDIBLE HULK STRIKES!

IT WON'T TAKE ME LONG TO CHOP YOU DOWN TO MY SIZE--SO I'LL BEGIN NOW!

BUT, GIANT-MAN NIMBLY PARRIES THE BLOW, DUCKING QUICKLY TO ONE SIDE...

-WHEW!- EVEN THOUGH HE ONLY *GRAZED* ME, IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HIT BY A *BULL-DOZER!* WHAT *POWER* HE HAS!!

AND THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE TOWERING AVENGER PERFORMS A FEAT NO LIVING BEING HAS EVER DARED ATTEMPT--OR *COULD* EVER ATTEMPT--

MY ONLY HOPE IS TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO *REASON* WITH HIM!

AND THE MOST *IMPORTANT* THING IS TO WIN HIS *RESPECT*-- TO SHOW HIM HE'S UP AGAINST SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS *HE* IS!

OKAY, HULK--*NOW* ARE YOU READY TO TALK SENSE??

EVEN THOUGH I *KNOW* HOW STRONG HE IS, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE CAN GET RIGHT UP AS THOUGH NOTHING HAS HAPPENED! HE JUST *CAN'T* BE HURT!

YOU THINK YOU CAN WEAR ME OUT? SLOW ME DOWN? YOU'RE A *FOOL*, GIANT-MAN!

YOU DON'T *KNOW* THE HULK! THE ANGRIER I GET, THE *STRONGER* I GET! AND I'VE NEVER BEEN *ANGRIER!*

SO! YOU SIDE-STEPPED MY BLOW! WELL, YOU CAN'T KEEP SIDE-STEPPING *FOREVER!*

AND THEN, BEFORE GIANT-MAN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE HULK MAKES ONE OF HIS LIGHTNING-FAST *LEAPS*--!

I'VE GOT YOU *NOW*!

NOTHING THAT *LIVES* CAN BREAK THE HULK'S GRIP!!

DON'T *KID YOURSELF*, HULK!

WHAT GOOD IS YOUR GRIP IF I SUDDENLY SHRINK DOWN TO THE SIZE OF AN *ANT*??

NO MATTER *HOW* STRONG YOU ARE, IT'S NOT TOO EASY TO KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON A TINY *ANT*, IS IT??

AND THEN, IN THE VERY NEXT SPLIT-SECOND...

BUT HERE, I'LL MAKE EASIER FOR YOU-- I'LL BECOME *GIANT-MAN* AGAIN!

NOW WILL YOU STOP FIGHTING AND LISTEN TO REASON??

AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO *TRICK* ME?? *NEVER*! NO MATTER *HOW* YOU CHANGE YOUR SIZE, I'LL SMASH YOU *YET*!! MY STRENGTH *HAS* TO WIN IN THE END!

THEN, GRASPING THE LEDGE OF A NEARBY BUILDING, THE *HULK* BRINGS A SECTION OF THE WALL DOWN ON HIS HUGE ADVERSARY BEFORE GIANT-MAN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE!

UGH! MY *SHOULDER*!!

WHERE IS YOUR CONFIDENCE *NOW*?? WHERE ARE YOUR BOASTS, YOUR SMART REMARKS? IN THE END, *NOTHING* CAN BEAT THE RAW POWER OF THE *HULK*!!

HE'S LEAPING AT ME! IF HE CONNECTS, I'M A *GONER*!

WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE TWELVE-FOOT TITAN ROLLS OUT OF HARM'S WAY AT THE LAST SECOND!!

CRASH!

AT THAT MOMENT, JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN, THE WASP OVERHEARS A STARTLING COMMAND....!

WE'RE ZEROED IN ON THE CENTER OF TOWN, SIR!

THEN FIRE THE SMALL BORE ATOMIC SHELL! IT WILL DAMAGE A MINIMUM OF PROPERTY, BUT IT'S SURE TO PUT THE *HULK* OUT OF ACTION!

OH *NO*!! THEY THINK THE HULK IS *ALONE*! THEY DON'T KNOW *GIANT-MAN* IS THERE!

NO TIME TO *STOP* THEM!! THEY'VE *FIRED* IT! IT'LL BE THE END OF HANK, UNLESS--

IT'S A CHANCE IN A MILLION-- BUT I'VE *GOT* TO TAKE IT!!

MADE IT! NOW, IF ONLY I CAN REACH THE DETONATING DEVICE BEFORE IT STRIKES ITS TARGET!!

I'LL KEEP TRYING TILL THE LAST SECOND-- AND, IF I'M TOO LATE-- THEN AT LEAST HANK AND I WILL GO *TOGETHER*! I'LL BE WITH THE MAN I LOVE TILL THE VERY END!!

IT'S *HOPELESS!* I CAN NEVER OPEN THIS LID BEFORE THE SHELL REACHES ITS TARGET!

WAIT! THERE'S STILL *ANOTHER* CHANCE! IF I CAN *CONTACT* HANK THRU HIS CYBERNETIC HELMET!

OUR HELMETS ARE DESIGNED FOR THOUGHT COMMUNICATION OVER SHORT DISTANCES! WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH NOW! OH, HANK, MY DARLING--READ ME-- *READ ME!!*

AND, A MICRO-SECOND LATER...

YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU CAN, JAN! JUMP! *JUMP,* BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

PRETENDING TO TALK TO SOMEONE BEHIND ME!! YOU DON'T FOOL ME WITH *THAT* TRICK!!

I DID IT! I WARNED HIM! BUT-- WHAT CAN HE DO *NOW* TO SAVE HIMSELF?!?!

HULK, LISTEN TO ME! LOOK INTO THE SKY--DIRECTLY OVERHEAD! THAT'S AN ATOMIC SHELL COMING THIS WAY! IF IT STRIKES, WE *BOTH* DIE! ONLY *YOU* CAN SAVE US!

I'M NOT SO *SURE!* I THINK I COULD *SURVIVE* A SMALL ATOMIC BLAST! BUT *YOU* SURE CAN'T!!

BUT *I* WANNA BE THE ONE TO FINISH YOU-- NOT SOME BLAMED *BOMB!!*

HE'S LEAPING TO INTERCEPT THE SHELL --AS I *KNEW* HE WOULD!!

IF THIS IS GONNA BE THE END OF THE HULK, THEN WHO *CARES??* MAYBE IT'LL BE THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN!! I'M NO GOOD TO MYSELF-- OR TO ANYONE ELSE!! THE WHOLE WORLD HATES ME ALMOST AS MUCH AS I HATE *MYSELF!*

WHOOM!

WATCHING FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, THE *HUMAN TOP* SEES HIS SINISTER SCHEME RUINED BY THE POWER OF THE HULK!

WHY DID HE *DO* IT?? WHY DID HE SAVE GIANT-MAN???

THERE'S NO TELLING *WHERE* HE'LL LAND WITH THAT THING! I'D BETTER GET *OUT* OF HERE!

BUT, AS A CAPRICIOUS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE HULK FINALLY HURLS THE ATOMIC SHELL UP INTO THE HILLS...

THERE!! NOTHING'LL FEEL IT WHEN IT EXPLODES EXCEPT FOR A FEW ROCKS AND SOME SAND DUNES!! LOOKS LIKE *MY* TIME HASN'T COME YET!

...AND THE POTENT SHELL FINALLY EXPLODES IN THE SAME HILLS WHERE THE HUMAN TOP HAD TAKEN REFUGE...!

HE SAVED *ME*-- BUT WHAT ABOUT THE *HULK??* WAS HE HIMSELF CAUGHT IN THE SHOCK WAVE OF THE EXPLOSION??

FOR THE ANSWER TO GIANT-MAN'S QUESTION, LET'S RETURN TO THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL OF EARTH'S MORTALS...

BEIN' TOSSED LIKE A FEATHER IN THE BREEZE! EVERYTHING SPINNIN' ROUND -- BLACKING OUT--!

LATER, AFTER THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED FROM THE MODERN, LOW-YIELD ATOMIC SHELL, A FORM BEGINS TO STIR ON THE SPOT WHERE THE *HULK* HAD FALLEN...

BUT, IT IS *NOT* THE MASSIVE FORM OF THE RAMPAGING MAN-BRUTE! IT IS THE SLIM, GAUNT FIGURE OF DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!

I'M ALIVE! I-I'VE CHANGED BACK TO *MYSELF* AGAIN! THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION MUST HAVE DONE IT!

AND, A SHORT TIME LATER...

DAD! OH, DAD-- *LOOK!* GIANT-MAN WAS *RIGHT!* IT'S BRUCE-- THE HULK *DIDN'T* HARM HIM!

HUNDREDS OF RUGGED, HUSKY MILITARY MEN IN MY COMMAND -- BUT THAT SCATTER-BRAINED DAUGHTER OF MINE HAS TO FALL FOR A SKINNY, WEAKLING PENCIL PUSHER! *BAH!*

WELL, JAN, IT LOOKS LIKE I FAILED! I COULDN'T CONVINCE THE HULK TO JOIN US AGAIN!

BUT YOU SAW HIM SAVE YOUR LIFE AT THE END! PERHAPS, IN A WAY, YOU SUCCEEDED MORE THAN YOU KNOW!

THE NEXT DAY, GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP ARE BACK IN NEW YORK FOR A REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE AVENGERS...

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SO THE MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER!

WE'VE NO URGENT BUSINESS TODAY! THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET IN TOWN SINCE LAST MEETING!

INDEED! THEN NOBODY HAS ANYTHING TO REPORT!

DAILY MAIL

DR. ZEMO REPORTS

OH WELL, THAT'S THE WAY THE MOP FLOPS! I GUESS WE CAN'T EXPECT TO HAVE A RIP-SNORTING ADVENTURE EVERY TIME WE STEP OUT OF THE DOOR!

BLUE EYES, YOU'RE A *CAUTION!*

the END

NEXT ISH! MORE THRILLS AND SURPRISES WITH THE BIGGEST MAN AND THE TINIEST GAL IN ADVENTUREDOM! DON'T MISS IT!

HULK-LOVERS Of The World!

HARKEN TO THIS MESSAGE FROM THE MARVEL BULL-PEN!

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALMOST EARTH-SHATTERING IMPORTANCE !!!!

GREAT NEWS FOR THE FRANTIC FANS OF OUR JOLLY GREEN GIANT!

STARTING NEXT ISH, THE INCREDIBLE **HULK**, BY LEE AND DITKO, WILL APPEAR **REGULARLY** AS THE SECOND STARRING FEATURE IN...

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND. 60 OCT

SEE THE BIG CHANGE IN "ASTONISH"

2 GREAT FEATURES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE !!

GIANT-MAN

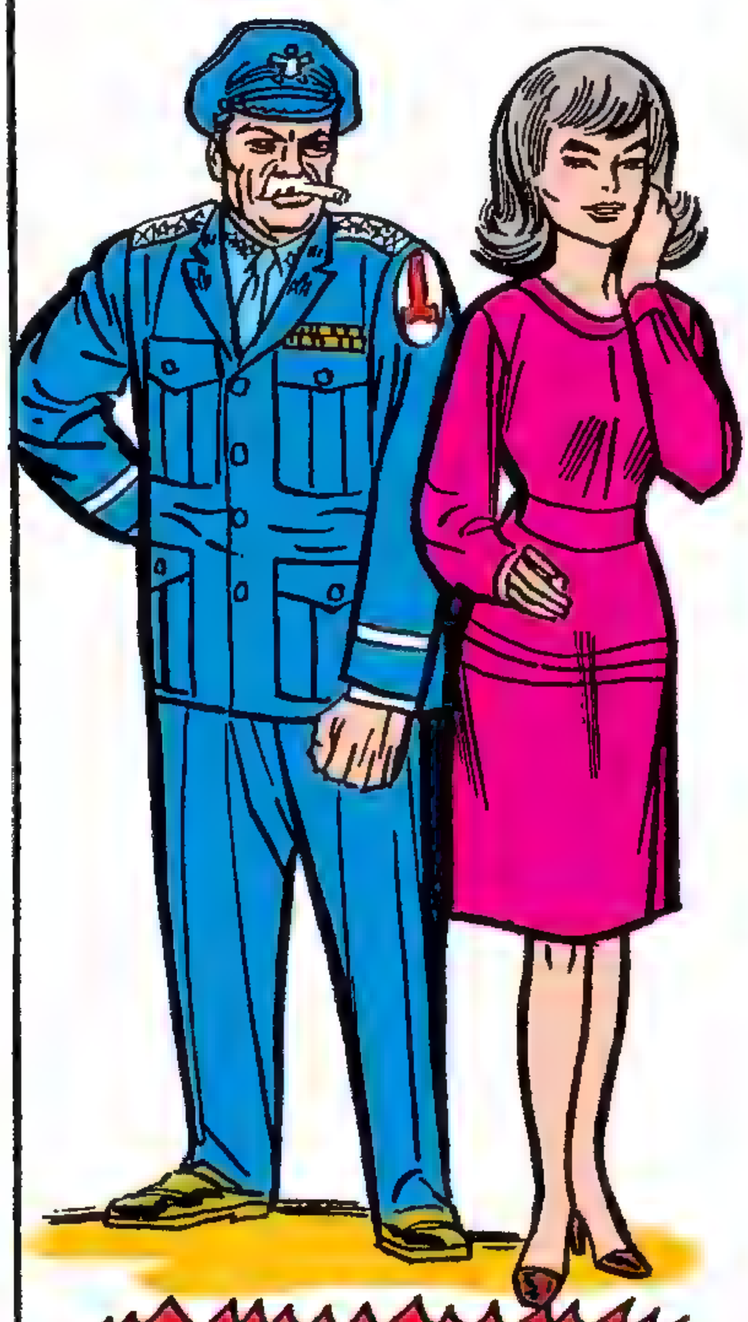
The INCREDIBLE HULK

IT JUST HAD TO HAPPEN!!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

HAS FINALLY BEEN AWARDED HIS OWN SERIES!!

BEGINNING WITH THIS ISSUE, OL' GREEN SKIN AND HIS FUN-LOVING FRIENDS WILL BE CO-FEATURED EACH AND EVERY MONTH (*AS LONG AS YOU CAN STAND IT!*) IN ***TALES TO ASTONISH!***



Starring the world's strongest mortal, who dares to ask the burning question:

"CAN A MAN WITH GREEN SKIN AND A PETULANT PERSONALITY FIND TRUE HAPPINESS IN TODAY'S STATUS-SEEKING SOCIETY?"

WRITTEN BY INCREDIBLE
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY INCREDIBLE
STEVE DITKO
INKED BY INCREDIBLE
GEO. BELL
LETTERED BY INEDIBLE ***S. ROSEN***

X763

IN A HIDDEN CAVE, BENEATH THE BURNING SANDS OF NEW MEXICO, WE FIND...

NO! NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

I DON'T *WANT* TO CHANGE! I WANT TO *REMAIN* AS I AM!

I WANT TO BE... *THE HULK!!* I WANT TO LASH OUT... DESTROY MY ENEMIES... I WANT.. OHHH

...IT'S TOO LATE!! IT'S *OVER!!* I'M *MYSELF* AGAIN! THE HULK IS *GONE!* THANK HEAVEN THE NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED ONCE MORE!

BUT *HAS* IT ENDED? HOW DO I KNOW *WHAT* IS REALITY? AM I REALLY BRUCE BANNER...OR IS *THE HULK* MY TRUE SELF? IF ONLY... IF ONLY I COULD FIND A WAY TO STOP MYSELF FROM *CHANGING!*

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT A NEARBY AIR FORCE MISSILE BASE...

I'LL TELL YOU WHY BANNER HAS DISAPPEARED! IT'S BECAUSE HE *KNOWS* THE ROBOT HE BUILT IS A *FLOP,* AND HE HASN'T THE BACKBONE TO STAY AND ADMIT HIS FAILURE!!

OH DAD, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT OF BRUCE! HE'S NEVER LET YOU DOWN BEFORE! IF HE SAID HIS ROBOT WILL WORK, THEN I JUST *KNOW* IT WILL! YOU'LL SEE!

BAH!! ALL I SEE IS THE FACT THAT MY DAUGHTER IS IN LOVE WITH A *WEAKLING!* HOW YOU CAN PICK *HIM* WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY TWO-FISTED, RED-BLOODED *MEN* AROUND HERE, I DON'T KNOW!

BRUCE IS AS COURAGEOUS AS *ANY* MAN, DAD! I JUST *KNOW* HE IS! AND I'M SURE HE'LL *BE* HERE SOON!

THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO BETTY ROSS'S WORDS...

SORRY! NO ONE'S ADMITTED IN THE "ROBOT ROOM" WITHOUT...OH... IT'S *YOU,* DOCTOR BANNER! GENERAL ROSS IS *WAITING!*

THANKS, SOLDIER! I'LL GO RIGHT IN!

SO! NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO SEE BANNER'S TOP SECRET ROBOT, EH? THIS WILL MAKE *MY* JOB A BIT HARDER!

LOOK, DAD! IT'S BRUCE! I TOLD YOU HE'D RETURN!

BANNER! WHERE IN SAM HILL HAVE YOU *BEEN??* I WAS ALL SET TO TEST THAT INFERNAL ROBOT OF YOURS *WITHOUT* YOU!!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SIR! *I'LL* DO IT!

BRUCE, YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT TO PRY INTO YOUR PRIVATE LIFE! BUT THESE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES OF YOURS... DAD IS ALWAYS READY TO THINK THE WORST! AND, AS FOR *ME*...!

IF ONLY I DARED TELL HER MY TERRIBLE SECRET! BUT I *CAN NOT! NO ONE* MUST EVER KNOW!

I'M SORRY, BETTY! I CAN'T EXPLAIN! YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST ME! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT, UNTIL THE DAY I CAN TELL YOU MORE...!

OH, BRUCE I *DO* TRUST YOU! YOU *KNOW* I DO!

LATER, AS BRUCE BANNER WORKS ON HIS ROBOT...

THIS WILL BE THE MOST INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE ON EARTH! BY GOING INSIDE OF IT, A MAN WILL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION TO STUDY IT MORE CAREFULLY THAN EVER BEFORE!

IF ONLY I CAN FINISH IT BEFORE... BEFORE I BECOME *THE HULK* AGAIN!

IF ONLY I COULD WORK WITHOUT ALL THIS PRESSURE... WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT GENERAL ROSS... ABOUT THE HULK... ABOUT BETTY...

SOMETIMES I FEEL AS THOUGH ALL THE STRAIN, THE WORRY... WILL MAKE ME GO *MAD!!*

WAIT! THAT'S *IT!* THAT'S THE *ANSWER! NOW* I KNOW WHY I CHANGE TO THE HULK, AND *BACK* AGAIN!

"IT'S ALL SO *CLEAR* ME NOW! IT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I'M THE MOST WORRIED... WHEN THE PRESSURE BECOMES UNBEARABLE!"

"THE STRAIN MUST SET OFF A CHEMICAL REACTION IN MY BLOOD CELLS WHICH CAUSES THEM TO CHANGE THEIR BASIC ATOMIC STRUCTURE..."

"...DUE TO THE FACT I WAS ONCE BATHED IN *GAMMA RAYS,** THE CHANGING BLOOD CELLS TAKE ON NEW CHARACTERISTICS, GROWING MANY TIMES MORE *POWERFUL...*"

"AND, WHEN I'M THE *HULK,* IT ALL WORKS IN REVERSE! WHEN I'M UNDER THE HEAVIEST POSSIBLE STRAIN, THE CHEMISTRY STARTS AGAIN, AND I REVERT BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!!"

*SEE *MARVEL TALES ANNUAL #1* "ORIGIN OF THE HULK"... EDITOR.

AND NOW THAT I *KNOW*, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS AVOID ANY STRAIN, ANY UNDUE PRESSURE, OR WORRY, AND I WON'T CHANGE TO THE HULK!

IT *SOUNDS* EASY... BUT HOW DOES A MAN STOP HIMSELF FROM WORRYING? HOW DOES...

BANNER, OUR TESTING TIME HAS BEEN MOVED UP! HAVE THAT CONTRAPTION READY AT 0800 HOURS TOMORROW MORNING!

UH-OH! THE *GENERAL!*

NO! YOU CAN'T BE *SERIOUS!* IT ISN'T *POSSIBLE!*

LOOK, MISTER, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A CIVILIAN, WHEN YOU WORK FOR THIS COMMAND, YOU'RE SUBJECT TO *MY* ORDERS! DO I MAKE MYSELF *CLEAR?*

I'VE GOT TO STAY CALM! I MUSTN'T LET MYSELF GET EXCITED!

YES, SIR! I UNDERSTAND!

AND SO, BRUCE BANNER WORKS FEVERISHLY THROUGH THE NIGHT, LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!

I'VE *GOT* TO HAVE IT FINISHED IN TIME! I'VE *GOT* TO PASS THE TEST TOMORROW MORNING!

WHAT'S THAT *NOISE??* SOMEONE IN THE HALL, OUTSIDE! BUT... *WHO??*

LEAVING HIS ROBOT FOR A MOMENT, BANNER STEPS INTO THE HALL, TO SEE ...

THERE *WAS* SOMEONE ... SNOOPING OUTSIDE THE DOOR! MUST BE A *SPY!* THERE HE *GOES!!*

STOP!! COME *BACK* HERE! YOU WON'T GET AWAY!

BUT, IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CHASE, BRUCE BANNER FORGETS HIMSELF... FORGETS THE ONE THING HE WAS DETERMINED NOT TO DO...!

I..I'VE ALLOWED MYSELF TO BECOME TENSE...EXCITED! IT'S CAUSING ANOTHER CHEMICAL REACTION WITHIN ME! I CAN *FEEL* IT! OH, NO... *NO!* I'VE GOT TO *STOP* IT!!

I'VE GOT TO *FIGHT* IT!! MUSTN'T LET IT HAPPEN... NOT *NOW*... NOT *AGAIN!*

TOO LATE! CAN'T RESIST ANY MORE! AND... WHY SHOULD I *WANT* TO BE THE WEAK, POWERLESS BRUCE BANNER...??

...WHEN I CAN BE THE INVINCIBLE *HULK* INSTEAD!!!

WITH ONE MIGHTY LEAP, THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING MORTAL ON EARTH HURTLES AWAY FROM THE MISSILE BASE TOWARDS THE HILLS IN THE DISTANCE!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY... OUT WHERE THERE'S ROOM TO MOVE... TO FLEX MY MUSCLES! TO PLAN MY NEXT ATTACK!

WHILE BACK AT THE BASE, AS DAWN IS BREAKING, THE UNKNOWN MAN WHOM BANNER HAD BEEN CHASING, BUT WHOM THE HULK FORGOT ABOUT, BACKTRACKS AND RETURNS TO THE HUGE ROBOT, AFTER OVERPOWERING AN UNSUSPECTING WATCHMAN...

BANNER HIMSELF WAS SUPPOSED TO TEST THIS ROBOT... BUT HE'S DISAPPEARED! THIS IS MY CHANCE! NO ONE WILL SUSPECT WHO'S *REALLY* INSIDE!

AND AT 0800 HOURS, ON THE ISOLATED TESTING GROUNDS...

WELL! BANNER'S ON *TIME*, FOR ONCE! ALL RIGHT, GET THE TEST STARTED! TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!

WILL THERE BE ANY *DANGER?*

NOT A CHANCE, MISS ROSS! WITH DR. BANNER OPERATING THE ROBOT, EVERYTHING'S SURE TO GO AS SMOOTH AS CLOCKWORK!

BUT, SUDDENLY...

GENERAL! WE FOUND THIS MAN... HE'S BEEN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS OUTSIDE OF THE ROBOT ROOM!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN DR. BANNER WHO DID IT! HE WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE BUILDING! BUT... WHY WOULD HE *DO* IT?

BANNER?? ATTACKED YOU? THAT MEANS HE MUST HAVE *CRACKED UP!* WE CAN'T LET HIM OPERATE THAT SUPER-POWERFUL ROBOT!! IT'LL BE TOO DANGEROUS! QUICK, GIVE THE ORDER TO *STOP THE TEST!*

DAD, IT'S *TOO LATE!*

THE TEST HAS STARTED *ALREADY!* SEE? THE ROBOT IS HEADING TOWARDS THE TEST EXPLOSIONS!

HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT LARGE... NOT AT THE CONTROLS OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MACHINES EVER BUILT! *QUICK...* DISPATCH THAT REMOTE CONTROL TANK TO STOP THE ROBOT!

DAD! DON'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT *BRUCE!!*

BUT, THOUGH NO ONE YET SUSPECTS IT, BRUCE BANNER IS NOT THE MAN INSIDE THE ROBOT!

BANNER BUILT THIS DEVICE *WELL!* THAT SHELL BOUNCED OFF LIKE A POP-GUN CORK! WHAT A WEAPON THIS WILL BE FOR ME TO SELL TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY!!

IT'S STILL FIRING AT ME! NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT A MIGHTY DEFENSIVE WEAPON THIS ROBOT IS, I'LL FIND OUT HOW GOOD IT IS ON THE *OFFENSE!*

IT'S ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF! BY OPERATING THE CONTROLS FROM INSIDE HERE, I'VE DESTROYED THE UNMANNED TANK WITH ONE BLOW OF THE ROBOT'S ARM !!

SIR! WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE DRONE TANK! THE ROBOT MUST HAVE SOMEHOW *DESTROYED* IT!!

WHAT?! ALERT ALL UNITS!! I WANT EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN! THAT ROBOT MUST BE *STOPPED!*

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE, THE LONE OCCUPANT MAKES A SHOCKING DISCOVERY...

THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION SOMEHOW *FUSED* THE HATCH DOOR SHUT! I CAN'T GET OUT! I'M *TRAPPED* IN HERE!

BUT WHY SHOULD I *CARE?* I HAVE ALL THE ROOM I *NEED* INSIDE HERE! THE ROBOT CAN GET ME FOOD... WATER... WHATEVER I NEED... AND, AS LONG AS I REMAIN INSIDE, *NOTHING* CAN HARM ME! THE *WORLD* WILL BE *MINE!*

BUT, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, BALEFUL EYES WATCH THE LUMBERING METAL MONSTER...

COMING TOWARD ME... IT LOOKS FAMILIAR...!

THEN, A HAZY MEMORY SEEMS TO FORM IN THE HULK'S STRANGELY CLOUDED BRAIN...

NOW I KNOW! *BANNER* BUILT IT! MADE IT SUPER-POWERFUL! MUST HAVE BUILT IT TO DEFEAT *ME!!*

IT'S COMING TO *ATTACK* ME!! BUT I'LL PROVE THAT *NOTHING* CAN BEAT THE HULK... *NOTHING!!*

THE *HULK*... CHARGING TOWARD ME! BUT I NEEDN'T FEAR! EVEN *HE* CAN'T HARM ME NOW!

THIS WILL BE THE GREATEST TEST! IF I CAN SURVIVE AN ATTACK BY THE HULK, THEN I'M TRULY ALL-POWERFUL INSIDE THE INVINCIBLE ROBOT!!

CLANG!

AND THEN AND THERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER RECORDED, THE AWESOME FISTS OF THE HULK ARE POWERLESS AGAINST A STRONGER FOE!!

NOW I KNOW THAT I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, FROM ANYONE OR ANYTHING!!

BUT, BRUCE BANNER HAD NOT DESIGNED HIS ROBOT FOR BATTLE.. AND ITS SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS ARE TOO SLOW TO BOTHER ITS GREEN-SKINNED FOE!

WHOOM!

WHAT SUPREME IRONY!! THE HULK, WHO IS IN TRUTH BRUCE BANNER HIMSELF, FIGHTS SAVAGELY TO DEFEAT ONE OF DR. BANNER'S GREATEST CREATIONS!!

HAH! I KNEW A KICK FROM ONE OF MY LEGS WOULD KNOCK YOU OVER!!

BANNER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO THINK HE COULD EVER MAKE ANYTHING THAT COULD DEFEAT THE HULK!

ANOTHER IRONIC FACT IS THAT THE HULK CAN NEVER CLEARLY COMPREHEND THE TRUTH...THE FACT THAT HE AND BRUCE BANNER ARE REALLY ONE AND THE SAME!!

AND NOW, I'LL FINISH YOU...AS ONLY THE HULK CAN!

CRASH!

IT STILL STANDS!!

AND THEN, IN A PAROXYSM OF RAGE AND FURY, THE HULK SEIZES THE TEN-TON ROBOT, LIFTING IT AS THOUGH IT WERE WEIGHTLESS, AND...

I'LL LET THE BRAIN-LESS BRUTE WEAR HIM-SELF OUT...!

BUT, MIGHTY AS HE IS, THE HULK IS *STILL* MERELY A LIVING BEING... WHILE BRUCE BANNER HAD DESIGNED HIS ROBOT TO WITHSTAND THE EFFECTS OF AN *ATOMIC BLAST* WITHOUT SUFFERING DAMAGE!

WITHIN THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE CASING, SURROUNDED BY CUSHIONING, I DON'T FEEL A THING!!

WHILE THE HULK, HAVING NEVER FACED A FOE WHOM HE COULDN'T SMASH BY SHEER BRUTE FORCE, GOES UNCONTROLLABLY BERSERK!

SO INTENSE IS HIS RAGE... SO LIVID IS HIS FURY... THAT HE IS UNAWARE OF THE TELLTALE SYMPTOMS WHICH INDICATE THAT HE IS ABOUT TO CHANGE IDENTI-TIES ONCE MORE, AS HE KEEPS POUND-ING AND POUND-ING... BUT TO NO AVAIL!

ALTHOUGH HE ISN'T YET AWARE OF IT, HIS HEARTBEAT HAS SPEEDED UP... HIS PULSE-RATE HAS CHANGED --- AND HIS BLOOD CELLS ARE BEGINNING TO EFFECT ANOTHER CHANGE IN HIS CHEMICAL MAKEUP!

AND THEN, IT BEGINS TO HAPPEN, AS HIS HEAD SEEMS TO WHIRL IN A DIZZY FOG!!

I'M *CHANGING* AGAIN... TURNING BACK INTO THAT WEAKLING, DR. BANNER...!

EVERYTHING SPINNING 'ROUND!! CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE... CAN'T SEE...

HAVE TO GET AWAY... ESCAPE BEFORE IT HAPPENS...!!

ROBOT... COMING *AFTER* ME NOW... CAN'T STAY AND FIGHT... HE MUSTN'T SEE ME CHANGE...!

NOW IT'S *MY* TURN, HULK! YOU'VE WORN YOURSELF OUT! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DODGE MY BLOWS!!

STILL A FEW SECONDS BEFORE THE CHANGE HAPPENS!! I'VE GOT TO ROLL AWAY NOW... DOWN THE HILL ...BEFORE HE GRABS ME!

MADE IT!!

I'VE *BEATEN* YOU! NOW I NEED FEAR NOTHING THAT LIVES!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, A DETAIL OF SEARCHING TROOPS MAKES AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY...

IT'S *DOCTOR BANNER!!* HE'S STILL ALIVE!!

BETTER CALL THE *GENERAL!* HE'LL WANT TO KNOW WE'VE *FOUND* HIM!

AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

SO *THERE* YOU ARE! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *ROBOT*? WHERE *IS* IT??

BRUCE! ARE YOU *HURT*?? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I-I'M ALL RIGHT! BUT... I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* THE ROBOT IS! I WASN'T *IN* IT!!

THEN, AFTER BRUCE BANNER HAS EXPLAINED ABOUT THE *SPY*...

DON'T *LIE* TO ME, BOY!! THERE WAS NO SPY, AND YOU *KNOW* IT! IT WAS *YOU* ALONE INSIDE THAT INFERNAL MACHINE! NOW WHERE DID YOU *HIDE* IT? *TALK!!*

DAD!! *PLEASE* DON'T! CAN'T YOU SEE HE ISN'T *WELL*?!

WHAT?!! YES, I UNDERSTAND, SIR! I'LL TELL THE GENERAL! OVER AND OUT!

SIR, IT SEEMS BANNER IS TELLING THE *TRUTH!* THE ROBOT HAS BEEN SIGHTED IN THE DESERT! IT'S MOVING UNDER ITS OWN POWER, SO SOMEBODY ELSE *MUST* BE INSIDE!

WELL, DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE! ORDER A *PURSUIT*... ON THE DOUBLE!

OH, BRUCE, ISN'T THAT *WONDERFUL!* YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR!

AM I? I WONDER!

JUST AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK CAN ONLY REMEMBER HIS LIFE AS BRUCE BANNER THROUGH A DIM, HAZY RECOLLECTION, SO TOO CAN BRUCE BANNER REMEMBER WHAT HAS HAPPENED WHEN HE WAS THE HULK ONLY IN A VAGUE, FLEETING WAY...!

I SEEM TO RECALL...THE HULK COULDN'T STOP THE ROBOT...AND NOT EVEN AN ATOMIC BLAST CAN STOP IT! THAT MEANS I HAVE MENACED MANKIND A ***SECOND TIME***!!

WHEN I BECOME THE HULK, ALL OF HUMANITY IS IN DANGER! AND THIS ROBOT, WHICH I BUILT TO ***PROTECT*** THE HUMAN RACE, MAY TURN OUT TO BE A GREATER DANGER THAN THE HULK HIMSELF!

GENERAL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...I'VE GOT TO CONSTRUCT A ***SECOND*** ROBOT, EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN THE FIRST! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ***DEFEAT*** THE OTHER ONE!

FORGET IT, BANNER! ***I'LL*** STOP THAT ROBOT OF YOURS...AND I'LL DO IT ***MY*** WAY! YOU'VE CAUSED ***ENOUGH*** HARM AROUND HERE ALREADY!

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU AS FAR AS I CAN ***THROW*** YOU! AND I'M GOING TO REPORT MY SUSPICIONS TO THE PENTAGON! I DON'T CARE ***HOW*** BIG A GENIUS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!

BRUCE...DAD JUST ***CAN'T*** MEAN IT!

HE MEANS IT, BETTY! AND HE MAY BE ***RIGHT***! PERHAPS I ***SHOULDN'T*** REMAIN HERE ANY LONGER!

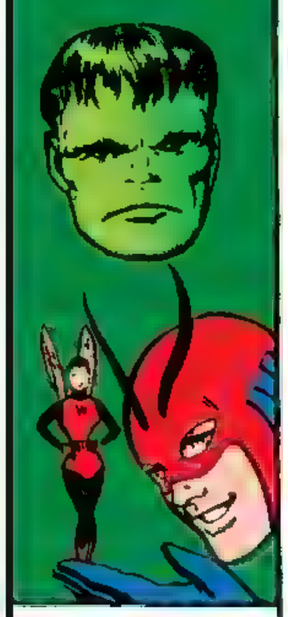
BUT YOU'VE DONE SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS! YOU'VE HARNESSED THE ENERGY OF THE GAMMA RAYS! YOU'VE SUPERVISED DOZENS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS! GIVE DAD TIME, BRUCE...HE'LL COOL OFF...I'M SURE OF IT!

BUT AS LONG AS I REMAIN HERE I'M A DANGER...TO THE POST..TO MYSELF, AND MOST OF ALL...TO ***YOU***, BETTY... YOU, WHO'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME!

BUT THE ***REAL*** REASON I WANT YOU TO STAY IS... THAT I ***LOVE*** YOU... AND I ALWAYS WILL...EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I HAVEN'T A CHANCE WITH YOU, BRUCE, MY DEAREST!

WELL, THAT'S IT FOR NOW! THE ROBOT WHICH CAN'T BE STOPPED IS STILL AT LARGE! BRUCE BANNER IS STILL NUMBER ONE ON THE GENERAL'S HATE PARADE! THE HULK FINALLY FOUND A FOE HE CAN'T DEFEAT! AND, AS IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH... A ***NEW*** THREAT TO POOR BRUCE WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT ISH!

SO, FOR MORE OF THE SAME, DON'T MISS THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE ONLY COMIC MAG SUPER-HERO SOAP OPERA IN EXISTENCE! SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ***TALES TO ASTONISH***! 'NUFF SAID!



MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

61 NOV

SEE THE HULK

"CAPTURED AT LAST!"

SEE GIANT MAN

"NOW WALKS THE ANDROID!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

"CAPTURED AT LAST!"

YOU'VE FINALLY MET YOUR MASTER, HULK! YOU'RE HELPLESS BEFORE ME NOW!

LAST ISSUE, WE SAW AN UNIDENTIFIED SPY LOCK HIMSELF INSIDE THE ROBOT WHICH DR. BRUCE BANNER HAD BUILT TO TEST THE EFFECT OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS!

THUS, WHEN BANNER ONCE AGAIN CHANGED INTO THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*, HIS OWN CREATION WAS TURNED AGAINST HIM!

POWERFUL AS HE IS, THE HULK IS STILL HUMAN... STILL FLESH AND BLOOD... EVEN THOUGH BANNER'S MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS HAVE INCREASED HIS STRENGTH A THOUSAND-FOLD! AND SO, EVEN *HE*, THE STRONGEST LIVING MORTAL, CANNOT STOP THE TEN-TON ROBOT WHICH WAS CREATED TO WITHSTAND THE POWER OF THE ATOM ITSELF!

I CAN FEEL THE *CHANGE* COMING AGAIN! I'LL SOON BE TRANSFORMED INTO THE WEAKLING DR. BANNER! I'VE GOT TO ROLL AWAY... DOWN THE HILL... BEFORE THE ROBOT LEARNS MY SECRET!

THE MOST REQUESTED, MOST EAGERLY AWAITED NEW SERIES OF THE YEAR! *Another Marvel First!!*

PRODUCED BY ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS IN COMICS:

The Incomparable
STAN LEE
Author

The Inimitable
STEVE DITKO
Illustrator

The Indescribable
GEORGE BELL
Inker

The Inevitable
S. ROSEN
Letterer

HE'S FALLING DOWN THE HILL...IN TOTAL DEFEAT!

I'VE *BEATEN* YOU! NOW I NEED FEAR NOTHING THAT LIVES!

STRONG AS HE IS, HE'S TOO SLOW AND CLUMSY TO FOLLOW ME DOWN! I'VE *ESCAPED* HIM!

CONFIDENT OF HIS VICTORY, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE ROBOT TURNS FROM THE CLIFF AND WANDERS THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE! THEN, BY A FREAK ACCIDENT OF FATE, HE STUMBLES INTO ONE OF THE HIDDEN CAVES WHICH BRUCE BANNER USES AS SECRET RESEARCH LABS...

A CAMOUFLAGED CAVE...FILLED WITH SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS! WHAT A GREAT STROKE OF LUCK FOR ME!!

UTILIZING MY *OWN* SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE... WITH ALL THE MATERIAL HERE AT HAND, I CAN CONSTRUCT A CRUDE *MISSILE*, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE NEARBY AMERICAN ROCKET BASE!

MEANTIME, HAVING CHANGED BACK TO HIS NORMAL IDENTITY, THE BRILLIANT DR. BRUCE BANNER WORKS FEVERISHLY AT THE BASE LAB...

IT WAS I WHO *CREATED* THE ROBOT... AND I MUST BE THE ONE TO *DESTROY* IT! FIRST, I'LL NEED AN ELECTRONIC SCANNER, IN ORDER TO TRACK HIM DOWN! HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO ROAM ABOUT AT WILL!!

WHOEVER IT IS WHO LOCKED HIMSELF INSIDE THE ROBOT CAN BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH IF HE ISN'T STOPPED! AND HE MUST *KNOW* THAT BY NOW!

HERE COMES MAJOR TALBOT NOW!

HE'S YOUNGER THAN I EXPECTED HIM TO BE!

HMM... A NEW MAJOR ON THE BASE! WONDER WHAT HE'S HERE FOR? MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH *SECURITY*, BECAUSE HE'S IN A HUDDLE WITH OUR TWO SECURITY OFFICERS!

WELCOME TO THE BASE, MAJOR TALBOT!

THANK YOU! I'LL REPORT TO GENERAL ROSS NOW... MEANTIME, I WANT BRUCE BANNER KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AT ALL TIMES!

YES, SIR!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, THE BATTLE-WISE COMMANDANT OF THE SOUTHWEST MISSILE INSTALLATION ...

IT'S ABOUT *TIME* YOU GOT HERE, MAJOR! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL THE PENTAGON AGAIN!

I REGRET THE DELAY, GENERAL! I'VE SPENT THE PAST TWO WEEKS STUDYING ALL THE RECORDS OF BRUCE BANNER'S CAREER! I'M CONVINCED THAT YOUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT HIM ARE WELL-FOUNDED, SIR!

I REPORTED MY CONCLUSIONS TO THE PENTAGON, GENERAL, AND THEY FELT YOU WERE WISE TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION OF DR. BANNER! THEY'RE PLEASED WITH YOUR ALERTNESS!

THAT SO?? HRRMPH! GOOD WORK, MAJOR! I CAN SEE WE'LL GET ALONG JUST FINE, MY BOY!

FATHER, I WONDER IF...

OH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BUSY!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR! COME IN, COME IN! I WANT YOU TO MEET OUR NEW SECURITY CHIEF, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT!

THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE, MISS ROSS! IT'S RARE TO FIND SUCH BEAUTY ON A MERE MILITARY BASE!

I KNOW HOW VALUABLE YOUR TIME IS, GENERAL! SO I WONDER IF YOUR *DAUGHTER* WOULD MIND SHOWING ME AROUND THE BASE!?

BUT I WAS ABOUT TO VISIT DR. BAN...

OF *COURSE*, MAJOR! BETTY WILL BE *GLAD* TO SHOW YOU AROUND!

PERHAPS GLENN TALBOT CAN TAKE HER MIND OFF THAT MILKSOP BANNER!

AND SO, THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER AND THE SECURITY OFFICER BEGIN A TOUR OF THE VITAL MISSILE INSTALLATION ...

I WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO SEE THE AREA WHERE *DR. BANNER* HAS HIS LAB!

CERTAINLY, MAJOR! IT'S RIGHT IN THIS DIRECTION! I WAS JUST GOING THERE MYSELF!

I WONDER WHY HE SEEMS SO INTERESTED IN BRUCE?! CAN ANYTHING BE *WRONG?*

BRUCE!? OH, THAT'S TOO BAD! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, LIEUTENANT!

I'M SORRY, SIR! HE HAD LEFT BEFORE I COULD REACH HERE! BUT A GUARD SAID HE WAS HEADED FOR THE HILLS NEARBY, CARRYING A STRANGE INSTRUMENT!

MISS ROSS, I'D NOW LIKE TO VIEW THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN FROM THE AIR! WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME IN THE HELICOPTER!?

CERTAINLY, MAJOR TALBOT!

HE'S NOT FOOLING *ME!* I'M SURE HE WANTS TO SEE IF HE CAN FIND A TRACE OF BRUCE BANNER!

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MAN IN QUESTION IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF HIS OUT-OF-CONTROL ROBOT...

MY ELECTRONIC SCANNER IS VIBRATING MORE STRONGLY NOW! I MUST BE GETTING CLOSER!

NO ONE, NOT EVEN GENERAL ROSS HIMSELF, CAN FULLY IMAGINE HOW DANGEROUS THE ROBOT CAN BE WITH THE WRONG HANDS GUIDING IT FROM WITHIN ITS IMPERVIOUS ARMOR!

THUS, FATE SETS THE STAGE FOR ANOTHER STARTLING CONFRONTATION!

I SEE SOMEONE CLIMBING THE SLOPE OF A HILL... CARRYING SOME SORT OF MECHANICAL DEVICE!

IT MUST BE BRUCE BANNER! HE'S ALWAYS CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS IN THE HILLS!

I'LL SET DOWN ON THAT NEAR-BY RIDGE, MAJOR!

BUT, SAFELY ESCONCED INSIDE THE AWESOME ROBOT, THE UNKNOWN ENEMY AGENT VIEWS THE ENTIRE SCENE FROM A SAFE VANTAGE POINT...

AN ARMY HELICOPTER! THEY MUST BE *AFTER* ME...THE *FOOLS!!*

INSIDE THAT SHIP... IT'S *BETTY!* WHY DID SHE FOLLOW ME HERE?!!

THEN, HEARING THE CLANGING SOUND OF SLOW-MOVING IRON JOINTS, BRUCE BANNER TURNS TO LOOK UPWARD, AND SEES...

THE *ROBOT!* HE'S SPOTTED THE SHIP! HE'S GOING TO TRY TO *SMASH* IT!!

I'VE GOT TO *STOP* HIM!! AND YET... WHAT CAN I DO? I'M TOO FAR AWAY!

SUDDENLY, AS THE TORMENTED SCIENTIST HELPLESSLY VIEWS THE SCENE OF IMPENDING DISASTER, THE TENSION MAKES HIS PULSE QUICKEN... SETTING OFF THE CHEMICAL REACTION WHICH BRINGS ABOUT THE MOST INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION OF ALL...AS DR. BRUCE BANNER DRAMATICALLY CHANGES INTO---*THE HULK!*

BRUCE BANNER CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP THE ROBOT...

BUT THE *HULK* CAN....!!

MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW, THE COURAGEOUS MAJOR, SEEING THE BOULDER HURTLING TOWARDS HIM, ATTEMPTS TO SHIELD THE GIRL WITH HIS OWN BODY...

MISS ROSS! LOOK OUT!!

OHHH!

BUT, BEFORE THE PLUMMETING ROCK CAN STRIKE EITHER OF THEM, THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS ON EARTH ENABLE THE *HULK* TO SPRING UPWARD, AND...

CRACK!

SO, INSTEAD OF BEING STRUCK BY THE HUGE, LETHAL BOULDER, THE SECURITY OFFICER MERELY SUFFERS A GLANCING SHOULDER BLOW BY A FRAGMENT OF STONE...

THE BOULDER MUST HAVE STRUCK A JUTTING PRECIPICE ABOVE, SHATTERING ITSELF AND SAVING OUR LIVES!

UNNGHH!

YOU TRIED TO *SAVE* ME... TRIED TO PROTECT ME FROM THE IMPACT BY USING YOUR OWN BODY AS A SHIELD! I... *OHHH!* YOUR SHOULDER! YOU'RE *HURT!!*

IT'S JUST A BRUISE, BETTY... IF I MAY CALL YOU BETTY!?

AND, AS THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER SEEMS TO SEE HER HANDSOME ESCORT IN A NEW LIGHT, A RAGING HUMAN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION ATTACKS HIS SLOWER-MOVING ADVERSARY WITH THE FURY OF AN UNLEASHED TORNADO!

IT'S *THE HULK* AGAIN!!

THE POUNDING FORCE OF THE HULK'S ATTACK CARRIES *BOTH* OVER THE LEDGE!

BUT, BOTH THE IMPERVIOUS METAL FIGURE AND HIS RAMPAGING HUMAN FOE ARE FAR TOO POWERFUL TO BE INJURED BY A MERE FALL, AS THEY PLUNGE DOWNWARD INTO THE CAVE BELOW!

ABLE TO MOVE FASTER THAN THE ROBOT, THE HULK IS THE FIRST TO REGAIN HIS FOOTING ... AND HE LASHES OUT WITH A THUNDERING ATTACK ... BUT...

WITHIN THIS INVULNERABLE ROBOT'S BODY, I'M COMPLETELY SAFE FROM HARM ... EVEN AT THE HANDS OF THE *HULK!!*

I CAN'T *HURT* HIM...

YOU BRAINLESS, MUSCLE-BOUND CLOD! *NOW* ARE YOU CONVINCED I CANNOT BE HARMED!!?

THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE MAN WITHIN THE STEEL FIGURE PRESSES THE NECESSARY CONTROL BUTTONS, AND THE TEN-TON JUGGERNAUT CATCHES ITS SMALLER HUMAN OPPONENT OFF GUARD...

WHAM!

TOO BAD, HULK! EVEN *YOUR* STRENGTH COULDN'T PREVAIL AGAINST THE GENIUS OF BANNER'S INVENTION!

CAN'T LET GO! IF I DROP INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT, I'LL NEVER GET OUT!!

JUST THEN, THE ROAR OF A MIGHTY ROCKET ENGINE IS HEARD...

RRRRRRRR

HEAR THAT, HULK? IT'S A *MISSILE* I FOUND HERE AMONG THE CAVES! I'VE SET IT FOR IMMEDIATE LAUNCH ... AIMED AT THE HEART OF THE ARMY BASE!!

THERE IT GOES *NOW*... ... AND NOTHING CAN STOP IT!!

WHOOOM!

ONLY ONE CHANCE...! I'LL THROW MYSELF TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PIT!

...AND USE MY LEGS TO BOUNCE OFF THE WALL AND LEAP *BACK!!*

HIS LEGS ARE LIKE STEEL SPRINGS! COMING TOWARDS ME...TOO FAST... CAN'T DODGE HIM!

THEN, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL PUTS EVERY BIT OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER HE POSSESSES INTO ONE DESPERATE BLOW...A BLOW STRONG ENOUGH TO FINALLY TOPPLE HIS DAZED OPPONENT, AND SEND HIM HURTLING INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT...

I *DID* IT!!

NOOOOo

THUD!

SECONDS LATER, CLIMBING OUT OF THE HIDDEN CAVE, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN BEHEMOTH SEES...

THE MISSILE... HEADING FOR THE BASE...

ONCE AGAIN, THE STEEL-MUSCLED LEGS OF THE HULK GO INTO ACTION, AS THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUAN LEAPS EVER HIGHER ...EVER FASTER... UNTIL...

CRUNCH!

BUT, BEFORE THE HULK CAN GET SAFELY OUT OF RANGE, HE CATCHES THE FULL FORCE...THE FULL BRUNT OF THE ENSUING EXPLOSION!

UNHHH...

EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS HAS ITS LIMITS...AND THE TITANIC STRENGTH OF THE *HULK* IS NO EXCEPTION! THE SPARK OF CONSCIOUSNESS SUDDENLY GOES OUT WITHIN HIS NUMBED BRAIN...

...AND HE PLUMMETS TO EARTH AGAIN, LIKE A WOUNDED DRAGON...OWING HIS SURVIVAL TO THE INCREDIBLE MUSCLES WHICH ARE ABLE TO WITH-STAND THE PUNISHING FORCE OF HIS LANDING...

AND THERE, HIS BATTERED BODY LIES, UNTIL...

LOOK! THAT FIGURE BELOW... IT'S THE *HULK!!*

SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE HELICOPTER LANDS, AND THEN...

HE'S *UNCONSCIOUS!* IT MUST HAVE BEEN *HE* WHO HURLED THE BOULDER AT US!

ALTHOUGH I LOST THE TRAIL OF BRUCE BANNER, WE'VE MADE AN EVEN *BIGGER* FIND!

I'VE GOT TO GET WORD BACK TO THE BASE, BEFORE HE RECOVERS! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

AND SO, SECONDS LATER...

THE HULK!! YOU'RE *SURE??* STAY *WITH* HIM, MAJOR!

I'LL HAVE A VOLUNTEER TASK FORCE ON THE SCENE *IMMEDIATELY!* BY THUNDER...WE'VE GOT THE *HULK!!*

THUNDERBOLT ROSS IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! MINUTES LATER ...

GREAT WORK, SON! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET A CITATION FOR THIS!

I ONLY DID MY DUTY, SIR!

GET THE LEAD OUT, PETE! IF HE WAKES UP TOO SOON, WE'RE *GONERS!*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, PAL!

THESE CHAINS ARE A SPECIAL DESIGN DEVELOPED BY TONY STARK, THE MUNITIONS MANU-FACTURER, FROM A THEORY WORKED OUT BY DR. BANNER! *NOTHING* CAN BREAK THEM!

HE'S FULLY SECURED NOW! *HAUL AWAY!*

SIR, THE RECON PATROL WISHES TO REPORT NO SIGN OF DR. BANNER ANYWHERE IN THIS SECTOR! SHALL WE CONTINUE OUR SEARCH?

OF *COURSE* KEEP SEARCH-ING! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE *SOME-WHERE!*

WE ALMOST FOR-GOT ABOUT HIM IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT!

WHAT COULD HAVE *HAPPENED* TO BRUCE?? WHY WAS MAJOR TALBOT SENT TO *INVESTI-GATE* HIM?

CAN IT BE I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE WRONG MAN?? AM I MISTAKEN ABOUT BRUCE BANNER?

YOUR DAUGHTER WAS QUITE *FRIENDLY* WITH DR. BANNER, WASN'T SHE, SIR?

YES, BLAST IT! I NEVER *COULD* UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE SAW IN HIM!

IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN HIM AND THE *HULK...!*

BY THUNDER, THERE *MUST* BE! I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES! BUT I CAN'T *PROVE* IT!

I KNOW THERE MUST BE *SOMEBODY* RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HULK... SOMEBODY *CONTROLLING* HIM! AND WHEN I FIND OUT WHO... *WAIT! LOOK!* HE'S COMING TO!

AT MY COMMAND... TRAIN YOUR GUNS DIRECTLY UPON HIM! IF HE SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF BREAKING FREE... *FIRE!*

I'M IN CHAINS... CAN'T MOVE! CAPTURED BY THE ARMY! BUT I'LL GET FREE! *NO ONE* CAN KEEP THE *HULK* A PRISONER!

SLOWLY, THE HULK SURVEYS THE SCENE WITH UNBLINKING, MALEVOLENT EYES... GATHERING HIS STRENGTH... PREPARING FOR ONE MIGHTY, HERCULEAN EFFORT TO SHATTER THE CHAINS THAT BIND HIM...

THE CHAINS ARE *HOLDING* HIM! BY THUNDER... WE'VE REALLY *GOT* HIM!

NOW WE'LL MAKE HIM TALK... WE'LL LEARN WHERE HE CAME FROM... HOW HE *GOT* THAT WAY!

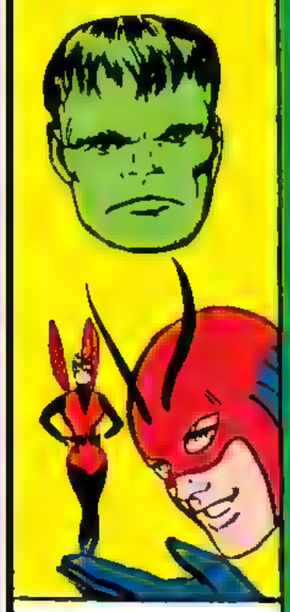
GLENN... I'M AFRAID! I'M AFRAID OF WHAT WE'LL LEARN!

AND SO, BOUND BY VIRTUALLY UNBREAKABLE CHAINS... FLANKED BY ATOMIC ARTILLERY PIECES, ZEROED IN UPON HIS OWN BODY... THE HULK BEGINS TO TENSE HIS INCREDIBLE MUSCLES... TO EXERT HIS ALMOST LIMITLESS STRENGTH...

BUT, THE MORE HE STRAINS... THE MORE TREMENDOUS PRESSURE HE EXERTS... THE MORE HIS *PULSE RATE* BEGINS TO CHANGE... THE CLOSER HE COMES TO AGAIN BEING TRANSFORMED INTO... *BRUCE BANNER!!*

THE END

NEXT ISSUE: MORE SURPRISES, AS THIS GREAT NEW SERIES REALLY BEGINS TO GATHER STEAM! REMEMBER, THE ONE THING YOU CAN ALWAYS EXPECT FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TEAM OF LEE AND DITKO IS... THE *UNEXPECTED!*



MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

62 DEC

TALES TO ASTONISH

THE HULK BREAKS LOOSE and ATTACKS THE CHAMELEON!

GIANT-MAN FIGHTS FOR HIS *LIFE* AGAINST THE WASP! WHY? HOW DID IT HAPPEN ??

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"ENTER...THE CHAMELEON!"

LAST ISSUE: THE GREAT GREEN GOLIATH WAS FINALLY CAPTURED, AND BOUND WITH UNBREAKABLE CHAINS! (*IRONICALLY, THE CHAINS ARE AN INVENTION OF DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER HIMSELF!*) AND NOW, AS THE HERCULEAN *HULK* STRAINS TO FREE HIMSELF, GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS ENJOYS HIS HARD-WON MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

I'LL BREAK FREE SOONER OR LATER!! NOT EVEN *THESE* CHAINS CAN RESIST MY STRENGTH FOREVER! BUT, WILL I HAVE ENOUGH *TIME*?!! I'VE GOT TO STRIKE BACK BEFORE HE LEARNS WHO I REALLY *AM*!!

YOU'RE HELPLESS AT *LAST*, YOU GROTESQUE MONSTER! AND YOU'LL *NEVER* ESCAPE ME... NOT TILL I'VE FINALLY LEARNED THE REAL *TRUTH* ABOUT YOU!

SENSATIONALLY SCRIPTED BY:
STAN LEE

DYNAMICALLY DRAWN BY:
STEVE DITKO

IMPECCABLY INKED BY:
GEORGE BELL

LOVINGLY LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

X-820.

MANY MILES FROM THE CLOSELY GUARDED MISSILE BASE, A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE, HIS IDENTITY CONCEALED BY THE SCIENTIFIC WORKSUIT HE WEARS, BARKS AN ORDER INTO A POWERFUL ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTER...

I HATE TO STOP WORK, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, ON MY LATEST HUMANOID CREATION, BUT I *MUST*...!

CHAMELEON! THIS IS THE *LEADER!* THE AGENT I SENT TO GENERAL ROSS'S MISSILE BASE HAS NOT REPORTED BACK!*

* FOR THE REASON WHY, SEE *ASTONISH #61*... STAN AND STEVE.

AND IN ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY, WE FIND...

I *MUST* KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM! *YOU* WILL LEAVE FOR THE BASE IMMEDIATELY! THAT IS ALL!

HE WANTS ME TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SPY HE HAD SENT TO ROSS'S BASE! THAT SEEMS LIKE A SIMPLE ENOUGH TASK FOR ONE, WITH THE *CHAMELEON'S* TALENTS!

BUT, SO IMPORTANT A NEWS ITEM AS THE CAPTURE OF THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* CANNOT LONG REMAIN A SECRET! AND, WHEN THE ONE PERSON IN ALL THE WORLD WHO KNOWS THE HULK'S TRUE IDENTITY LEARNS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, HE *ALSO* PREPARES TO ACT!

I UNDERSTAND, RICK! THE *HULK* WAS ONCE YOUR FRIEND! YOU FEEL YOU MUST GO TO HIS AID... JUST AS BUCKY BARNES WOULD ONCE HAVE GONE TO *MINE!*

YOU *STILL* CAN'T FORGET YOUR DEAD PARTNER, BUCKY, CAN YOU, CAP?? WELL, I'VE GOT TO RUSH NOW IF I DON'T WANNA MISS MY JET!

LATER, A CAPRICIOUS FATE SEATS BOTH RICK, AND THE DISGUISED CHAMELEON, ON THE SAME PLANE..

MY GUESS IS... THE HULK PROBABLY KILLED THE LEADER'S AGENT! HMM... THAT GIVES ME AN *IDEA!*

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOW *CAPTAIN AMERICA'S* SIDEKICK... AND I'M PRACTICALLY ONE OF THE *AVENGERS*... I CAN'T EVER DESERT THE *HULK!* BRUCE BANNER WOULD *NEVER* HAVE TURNED INTO THE HULK IF HE HADN'T SAVED MY LIFE!*

* SEE: "ORIGIN OF THE HULK" *MARVEL ANNUAL #1* ... STAN AND STEVE.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BASE, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT, THE DEDICATED NEW SECURITY OFFICER, REPORTS TO GENERAL ROSS...

THERE IS STILL NO TRACE OF DR. BRUCE BANNER, SIR! I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT HE IS DEFINITELY A *SECURITY RISK!*

SO AM I, MAJOR! IF WE COULD ONLY *PROVE* IT!!

BUT BETTY ROSS, THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER, IS NOT SO CERTAIN...

WHAT IF THE *HULK* RAN INTO BRUCE BEFORE WE CAPTURED HIM! HE MIGHT HAVE INJURED HIM... OR *WORSE!*

WE'LL LEARN THE TRUTH SOONER OR LATER, BETTY... I PROMISE!

AND, ALL THIS TIME, THE HULK STANDS MOTIONLESS, STRAINING, STRAINING, EXERTING AN INDESCRIBABLE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE AGAINST THE SEEMINGLY UNBREAKABLE CHAINS... FORGETTING THAT THE EXERTION IS BEGINNING TO ALTER HIS PULSE RATE... BRINGING HIM CLOSER TO CHANGING BACK TO... *BRUCE BANNER!*

I WON'T STOP TRYING! THEY'RE BEGINNING TO WEAKEN... I CAN *FEEL* IT!!

FINALLY, THE JET LANDS OUTSIDE THE POST, AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

RICK JONES! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! HAVE YOU COME TO LOOK FOR BRUCE BANNER, TOO?

EH, YES, MISS BRANT! I HEARD HE WAS MISSING, AND THOUGHT I COULD HELP WITH THE SEARCH!

NONE OF THEM SUSPECT THAT BRUCE BANNER IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM, ALL CHAINED UP... IN THE FORM OF THE HULK!!

KEEP MOVING, KID! THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS TO UN-AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL!

IF THE HULK KEEPS STRAINING THAT WAY, HE'LL CHANGE BACK TO DR. BANNER IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!!

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME! I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING FAST!

YOU! STOP WHERE YOU ARE!

I'M MAJOR TALBOT, THE SECURITY OFFICER HERE! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR SIGHT-SEEING TEEN-AGERS! NOW TAKE OFF!

SURE, MAJOR! JUST LEAVING, ANYWAY!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

MEANWHILE, CHANGING HIS DISGUISES AS HE GOES, WITH THE EASE OF A MASTER, THE CHAMELEON MANAGES TO REACH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL ROSS...

SO THAT'S THUNDERBOLT ROSS! ALL I NEED IS THIS ONE LOOK AT HIM...

MINUTES LATER...

NOW TO RETURN TO THE BASE AND CARRY OUT MY MOST DARING PLAN...!

ONLY THE CHAMELEON COULD BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO MAKE AN ALLY OF THE RAMPAGING HULK!

AND SO, BECAUSE NO MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD DARE TO INTERFERE WITH A MAN WHO SEEMS TO BE THEIR COMMANDING GENERAL, THE CHAMELEON REACHES HIS QUARRY WITH EASE..

IF YOU AGREE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM ME, I CAN SET YOU FREE!

THE HULK TAKES ORDERS FROM NO ONE!

AND YOU ARE MY ENEMY!! I'LL GET FREE BY MYSELF, AND WHEN I DO...

NO! YOU CAN'T! YOU NEED MY HELP! BUT WAIT... IT ISN'T SAFE TO TALK THIS WAY...!

CAPTAIN, DISMISS YOUR MEN! I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH THE PRISONER!

BUT, SIR... IF HE SHOULD ESCAPE...

THAT'S AN ORDER, CAPTAIN!

YES, SIR!

BUT, AS THE TROOPS DEPART, THE PULSE RATE OF THE HULK REACHES THE CRITICAL PEAK... AND ONCE AGAIN THE INCREDIBLE *TRANS-FORMATION* BEGINS...

I'M *CHANGING!* I'M BECOMING THE WEAK *BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN!

SECONDS LATER, HUNDREDS OF POUNDS LIGHTER, AND FAR THINNER THAN HE WAS, BRUCE BANNER IS ABLE TO SLIP EASILY THROUGH THE CHAINS WHICH WERE INTENDED TO HOLD THE AWESOME *HULK!*

I'M *FREE!*

THEN, WHEN THE CHAMELEON RETURNS WITH A FLASHLIGHT AND A BOTTLE OF POWERFUL *ACID*, HE IS ASTONISHED TO FIND...

HE'S *GONE!*

BUT THE CHAINS ARE STILL *INTACT!* SOMEONE *ELSE* FREED HIM! BUT... *WHO?!*

AND AS BANNER RACES ACROSS THE FIELD...

IT'S *DOCTOR BANNER!* HE'S *CHANGED* AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM!

RICK JONES!!

OVER HERE... *QUICK!*

I DON'T THINK ANYONE *SAW* MY TRANSFORMATION! BUT, IF THEY FIND ME LIKE THIS... *RICK!* A SEARCH PATROL IS COMING!!

THROUGH THAT DOOR ... *QUICK*, DOC! LET *ME* HANDLE IT!

I JUST SAW SOMEONE RACE PAST HERE... HEADING IN *THAT* DIRECTION!

THANKS, SON! LET'S *GO* MEN!!

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, DOC! GOOD THING I STASHED SOME EXTRA *CLOTHES* AWAY FOR YOU, JUST IN CASE!

BUT HOW DID YOU *GET* HERE, RICK? WHY DID YOU *COME?*

DID YOU THINK I COULD EVER FORGET HOW YOU ONCE SAVED MY LIFE, DOC? I'D NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU... I'D HAVE *STAYED* WITH YOU... IF YOU HADN'T DRIVEN ME OFF YOURSELF... WHEN YOU WERE THE *HULK!!*

BUT YOU DID THE RIGHT THING IN LEAVING ME, RICK! AS THE HULK, I'M CAPABLE OF *ANYTHING!* WHEN I GO ON A RAMPAGE, I CAN'T THINK... CAN'T REASON! *NO ONE* MUST BE NEAR ME AT A TIME LIKE THAT!

I FELT SO *GUILTY*, LEAVING YOU AND JOINING *CAPTAIN AMERICA!* I FELT LIKE A *DESERTER!*

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF THE *REAL* GENERAL ROSS...

OF *COURSE* I NEVER ORDERED THE GUARD DETAIL TO LEAVE THEIR POSTS! IT WAS SOME BLANKITY-BLANK *IMPOSTOR!!* AND NOW THE HULK IS *GONE* AGAIN! BUT SOMEONE WILL *PAY* FOR THIS...!!

GENERAL ROSS, I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED! CAN I BE OF ANY HELP?

BRUCE BANNER!! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL *OVER* FOR YOU, MAN!!

THAT'S NOT *MY* FAULT, MAJOR! I DIDN'T *ASK* YOU TO!!

BANNER! WHERE IN SAM HILL HAVE YOU *BEEN?* YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF *EXPLAINING* TO DO, MISTER!!

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, SIR! I WAS DOING SOME RESEARCH IN THE CAVES NEARBY, AND LOST MY WAY FOR A WHILE!

YOU'RE *SMOOTH* DOCTOR BANNER! A LITTLE *TOO* SMOOTH!

I AM AWARE THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE TOP NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS IN THE NATION TODAY, BANNER, AND YOUR SERVICES ARE VITAL TO OUR DEFENSE EFFORT! BUT THE PENTAGON SENT ME HERE TO CHECK OUT SOME DISTURBING *RUMORS* ABOUT YOU...

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN RUMORS, MAJOR! GOOD DAY!

SECONDS LATER, AS BRUCE BANNER RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY, A FIGURE POUNCES ON HIM FROM THE DARKENED ROOM INSIDE...

GOT YOU!!

WHA..?

TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE, THE HAPLESS SCIENTIST IS SOON SECURELY TIED BY... THE *CHAMELEON!*

I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LEARN WHAT I CAME HERE TO FIND OUT! BUT IF I CAN STEAL SOME SECRETS FROM ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, MY EFFORTS WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!

LATER, AS THE DISGUISED CHAMELEON SEARCHES BANNER'S LAB...

WHAT A *FIND!* THE FORMULA FOR A GRENADE-TYPE *GAMMA BOMB*... AS WELL AS A WORKING PROTOTYPE MODEL!!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, BETTY ROSS ENTERS, THINKING THE MAN BEFORE HER IS THE GENUINE BRUCE BANNER...

BRUCE DARLING! I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE BACK SAFE!!

BLAST IT! WHO IS *SHE?!*

LOOK...I'M BUSY NOW! COME BACK LATER!

SOMETHING'S *WRONG!!* YOU... YOU'VE *CHANGED!* YOU'D NEVER HAVE SPOKEN TO ME THAT WAY *BEFORE!*

AND THEN, POSSESSED BY AN *INTUITION* WHICH ONLY *FEMALES* SEEM TO HAVE, BETTY ROSS SUDDENLY REALIZES...

YOU'RE *NOT* BRUCE BANNER! YOU'RE AN *IMPOSTOR!* YOU MUST BE THE ONE WHO IMPER-SONATED MY FATHER!!

YOU ARE CLEVER, YOUNG LADY! FAR *TOO* CLEVER... FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

WHILE, A MERE FEW HEARTBEATS AWAY, BRUCE HEARS THE GIRL HE LOVES BEING THREATENED, AND SUDDENLY ALL IS FORGOTTEN SAVE THE DESPERATE NEED TO SAVE HER!!

I'VE GOT TO BREAK FREE!! THE CHAMELEON WON'T LET HER LEAVE HERE ALIVE!

AND SO, ONCE AGAIN BANNER'S PULSE RATE CHANGES UNDER THE SEVERE STRESS AND STRAIN OF HIS SEETHING EMOTIONS---CHANGES ENOUGH TO TRIGGER ONE OF THE GREATEST REACTIONS OF ALL... AS THE *HULK* COMES TO LIFE ONCE MORE!!

NO PUNY ROPES CAN HOLD *ME!!*

CRASH!

THE HULK!!

HOW?!?!

STAY BACK!! THIS IS A *GAMMA GRENADE BOMB* I'M HOLDING! IF I DROP IT, WE *ALL* DIE!!

LET ME *GO!!* WE'VE GOT TO *RUN!!* A MERE BOMB WON'T STOP *HIM!!*

BUT, IN A DIM RECESS IN HIS CLOUDED BRAIN, ONE SMALL PART WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER REMEMBERS THE *POWER* OF THE GAMMA BOMB...AND THAT SAME SMALL PART OF DR. BANNER CANNOT LET THE ENTIRE BASE BE WIPED OUT!!

AND SO, THE HULK PAUSES... UNSURE...UNABLE TO DECIDE UPON HIS NEXT MOVE...UNTIL HE SEES...

A *PATROL* COMING!

THEY MUSTN'T CHAIN ME AGAIN!!

HIS BRUTISH BRAIN CONFUSED...THE MEMORY OF THOSE POWERFUL CHAINS STILL STRONG WITHIN HIM...THE HULK SUDDENLY FORGETS ALL ELSE, AS HE TURNS, CRASHING OUT OF THE BUILDING!

I'VE DRIVEN OFF THE *HULK!* IF I CAN DEFY *HIM*, THEN *NO ONE* CAN STOP ME!!

BUT THE PART OF HIM WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER HAS *ANOTHER* MOTIVE FOR HURTLING PAST THE GUARD DETAIL! FOR, IF THEY SHOULD ATTACK THE CHAMELEON, THEY MIGHT CAUSE HIM TO DROP THE DEADLY GAMMA BOMB...

IF THEY FOLLOW *ME*, HE WON'T USE THAT BOMB!

IT'S THE *HULK!!*

QUICK! RADIO H.Q.!

MEANTIME, AS THE CHAMELEON DASHES FOR FREEDOM WITH HIS HELPLESS CAPTIVE...

NO YOU *DON'T*, BANNER! IT'S A GOOD THING I *FOLLOWED* YOU! WHERE DO YOU THINK... *UNHHHH!*

NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP ME *NOW!* WITH THE GIRL AS A HOSTAGE, I'LL BE ABLE TO FLEE THE POST AND BRING THE GAMMA BOMB TO THE LEADER!

A ROCKET SPEED-VELOCITY TEST SLED!! JUST THE THING TO HIDE A MEDDLING FEMALE IN!

IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENED TO THE OTHER AGENT WHOSE FATE I WAS SUPPOSED TO LEARN! WITH A PRIZE SUCH AS THE GAMMA GRENADE, *I'LL* BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SPY OF ALL!

BUT THEN, THE CHAMELEON SEES ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING SIGHTS OF ALL...

IT'S THE *HULK* AGAIN! HE LANDED IN FRONT OF ME, FROM A THOUSAND-YARD LEAP!!

WHAT IF THE THREAT OF THE BOMB WON'T *STOP* HIM THIS TIME??

MOVING WITH DESPERATE SPEED, THE MERCILESS CHAMELEON PLACES HIS CAPTIVE INSIDE THE NEARBY ROCKET TEST SLED, AND...

THERE! THIS WILL KEEP HIM OCCUPIED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ESCAPE!!

ONCE AGAIN, THE PART OF THE HULK WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER REACTS TO THE THREAT AGAINST THE GIRL BANNER LOVES... AS THE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL *HULK* STOPS THE SPEEDING ROCKET SLED WITH HIS BARE HANDS!

WHOOM!

BLAST IT!! I HOPED THE ROCKET SLED WOULD *CRUSH* THE LUMBERING BRUTE!! WELL, NO MATTER! IT *STILL* GAVE ME A HEAD START!

BUT, A HEAD START MEANS *NOTHING* WHEN FIGHTING THE *HULK!* FOR, HAVING STOPPED THE SPEEDING ROCKET SLED, HE REACHES THE CHAMELEON AGAIN WITH ONE MIGHTY LEAP...!

NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

WAIT! STAY *BACK!* BEFORE I LET *YOU* TOUCH ME, I'LL BLOW US *ALL* TO SMITHEREENS!!

AND AGAIN THE STRANGELY TORTURED BRAIN OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK HAS TO MAKE A DIFFICULT CHOICE! BUT, WHILE HE PONDERS DARKLY...

FOOTSTEPS BEHIND ME!! A PATROL IS ATTACKING!! *BAH!!* I'LL SCATTER THEM LIKE GNATS!

UNABLE TO RETAIN ONE THOUGHT FOR TOO LONG A PERIOD OF TIME IN HIS BESTIAL BRAIN, THE HULK FORGETS ABOUT THE THREAT OF THE CHAMELEON, AS HE PREPARES TO BATTLE THE MEN WHO ARE SURROUNDING HIM!

LOOK! WHAT'S HE *DOING??*

NOW! NOW YOU'LL FEEL THE POWER OF THE *HULK!!*

STEADY! HE... HE'S ACTUALLY STARTING TO LIFT UP THE ENTIRE CONCRETE ROCKET TRACK BED!

BUT THE CHAMELEON, ALSO HALF CRAZED WITH FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY, DECIDES ON ONE LAST DESPERATE MOVE...

HE'S STRONGER THAN I *DREAMED!* I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! EVEN THE *BOMB* DOESN'T MATTER ANY MORE! I'LL USE IT TO *DESTROY* HIM!

THEN, ALTHOUGH THE HULK COULD EASILY ESCAPE WITH ONE MIGHTY LEAP, HE CHOOSES A *DIFFERENT* COURSE OF ACTION INSTEAD...

FIRST, I'LL MAKE SURE THE PATROL CAN'T INTERFERE WITH ME!!

THIS WILL KEEP THEM BACK LONG ENOUGH!

NEXT, LIKE A RAGING TORPEDO, HE HURLS HIMSELF AT THE LETHAL GAMMA BOMB...!

I REMEMBER... WHEN BANNER BUILT THE BOMB... IT'S STRONGER THAN ANYONE KNOWS! IT CAN BLOW UP THIS WHOLE POST... KILL *EVERYONE!*

AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL BODY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH ABSORBS THE FULL BRUNT, THE ENTIRE IMPACT, OF THE STAGGERINGLY POWERFUL GAMMA EXPLOSION... MUFFLING THE EFFECT, SMOTHERING THE DEADLY RAYS, SAVING THE LIFE OF EVERY HUMAN WITHIN MILES!

AS FOR THE RUTHLESS, CUNNING *CHAMELEON*... WHO HAD NEVER EXPECTED THE BLAST TO BE SO POWERFUL... THE SHOCK WAVE HURLS HIM TOWARD A LONELY CLUSTER OF ROCKS, SAVING HIM FROM LATER DETECTION BY THE SEARCHING PATROLS!

MY MISSION IS A COMPLETE *FAILURE!* I LEARNED NOTHING ABOUT THE OTHER AGENT! I LOST THE BOMB! AND I'VE BARELY ESCAPED ALIVE!

WHILE THE HULK, HIDDEN WITHIN THE SWIRLING CLOUD OF THICK SMOKE, SLOWLY RISES TO HIS KNEES, AS THE POWERFUL GAMMA RAYS PENETRATE HIS BODY RIGHT THROUGH THE PORES OF HIS SKIN...

...CAUSING HIM ONCE AGAIN TO CHANGE BACK INTO THE NOW-WEAKENED, SLENDER, ACHING FORM OF DR. *BRUCE BANNER!*

I'VE BECOME MYSELF AGAIN!! IT'S LUCKY IT HAPPENED WITH THIS SMOKE SWIRLING AROUND... NO ONE COULD HAVE *SEEN* THE TRANSFORMATION!

I'LL MAKE IT BACK TO MY LAB NOW WHILE I CAN, UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE! AT LEAST I KNOW THAT BETTY IS SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING!!

I'VE GOT TO CHANGE CLOTHES BEFORE THAT SECURITY MAJOR PUTS TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND REALIZES WHO THE HULK REALLY *IS!*

LATER, AS THE SMOKE CLEARS...

BRUCE BANNER WAS *SEEN* PUTTING YOU IN THAT ROCKET SLED, BETTY! *THIS* TIME I'VE REALLY GOT THE GOODS ON HIM!

SHE CAN'T SPEAK TO YOU JUST YET, MAJOR! SHE'S STILL IN A STATE OF SHOCK!

BUT LATER, AT A FORMAL BOARD OF INQUIRY HEARING...

DUE TO MISS BRANT'S TESTIMONY THAT IT WASN'T REALLY *YOU* WHO MENACED HER AND WHO THREW THAT BOMB, WE HAVE TO DISMISS THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU, BANNER!

BUT MAJOR TALBOT AND I ARE *STILL* NOT CERTAIN MY DAUGHTER ISN'T TRYING TO *PROTECT* YOU IN SOME WAY! YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TOO MYSTERIOUS, YOUR FREQUENT DISAPPEARANCES TOO SUSPICIOUS! I *STILL* FEEL THERE'S SOME TIE-IN BETWEEN *YOU* AND THAT BLASTED *HULK!*

I HAVE NO-THING MORE TO SAY, SIR!

BUT WHY DO YOU STILL *HATE* THE HULK SO? I THOUGHT HE HAD SAVED THE POST!

THAT'S WHAT HE *WANTED* US TO THINK! HE WAS ONLY CONCERNED WITH SAVING *HIMSELF!*

IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN BRUCE AND THE HULK?

IF SO, WHAT ON EARTH CAN IT *BE??*

AND, HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF *THE LEADER* PLANS A NEW MOVE... ONE WHICH WILL HAVE A DRAMATIC EFFECT UPON THE LIVES OF OUR LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS...AND ESPECIALLY UPON...THE INCREDIBLE *HULK...!*

MY FIRST AGENT DISAPPEARED! THE CHAMELEON WAS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE HULK! BUT, NOW THAT MY HUMANOID CREATION IS COMPLETED, IT IS TIME FOR THE *LEADER* TO TAKE OVER, PERSONALLY!

NEXT ISSUE:

WE SHALL LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MENACING CHARACTER WHO CALLS HIMSELF---

THE LEADER!

SO, BE SURE TO BE WITH US AGAIN FOR THE FOLLOWING INSTALLMENT OF MARVEL'S NEW ADULT FANTASY SOAP-OPERA, STARRING THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST RAMPAGING MORTAL OF ALL TIME... THE INCREDIBLE

HULK!

A MARVEL MASTERWORK PIN-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

63 JAN

GIANT-MAN DISCOVERS.. THE WRECKER

THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS GREATER THAN EVER IN "A TITAN RIDES THE TRAIN!"

UNDOUBTEDLY COMICDOM'S BIGGEST DOUBLE-FEATURE VALUE FOR 12¢!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

"A TITAN RIDES THE TRAIN!"

Introducing: "THE LEADER" AND HIS INDESCRIBABLE HUMANOID!

AT LAST MY MIGHTY HUMANOID IS READY!

ALONE IN HIS HIDDEN LAB SITS **The LEADER!** THE HUMAN RACE IS STILL UNAWARE OF THE TERRIBLE MENACE HE POSES TO THE WORLD! AND **THE HULK** CANNOT POSSIBLY SUSPECT HOW SOON HE WILL BE BATTLING THE LEADER'S **HUMANOID**...WITH THE FUTURE OF MANKIND HANGING ON THE OUTCOME!

ONLY STAN LEE COULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS MONUMENTAL MASTERPIECE!

ONLY STEVE DITKO COULD HAVE DRAWN THESE POWERFUL PANELS!

ONLY GEO. BELL COULD HAVE INKED THIS SENSATIONAL SAGA!

ONLY S. ROSEN COULD HAVE LETTERED HIS NAME S.ROSEN!

AS THE *LEADER* BEGINS TO REMOVE HIS AMAZING HEADPIECE, HIS THOUGHTS TRAVEL BACK... BACK IN TIME...TO THE MOMENT WHEN HE BECAME THE STRANGE BEING HE IS...

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY IT ALL STARTED!...

"IT WAS LESS THAN A YEAR AGO! AN ORDINARY LABORER WAS MOVING A LOAD OF WASTE MATERIAL IN THE SUB-CELLAR OF A CHEMICAL RESEARCH PLANT..."

DANG

"SUDDENLY, A ONE-IN-A-MILLION FREAK ACCIDENT OCCURRED, AS AN EXPERIMENTAL *GAMMA RAY CYLINDER* EXPLODED!"

"THE TRAPPED LABORER WAS HELPLESSLY CAUGHT IN THE BLAST, WITHOUT WARNING...WITH NO PLACE TO TURN...!"

"FOR A PERIOD OF ALMOST A FULL MINUTE HIS ENTIRE BODY WAS BOMBARDED BY THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS, ONE OF THE STRONGEST FORCES KNOWN TO MAN!"

"ALTHOUGH A FRACTION OF THE DOSAGE HE RECEIVED WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO KILL A DOZEN MEN, FOR SOME INEXPLICABLE REASON THE LABORER *SURVIVED* HIS UNCANNY ORDEAL! MEDICAL SCIENCE WAS BAFFLED! HE SEEMED COMPLETELY UNHARMED..ALTHOUGH IN ONE WAY, HE WAS DIFFERENT..."

HERE ARE THE ADDITIONAL *BOOKS* YOU ASKED FOR!

GOOD! I CAN'T SEEM TO GET ENOUGH TO *READ!*

"EVEN AFTER LEAVING THE OBSERVATION WARD, HE DEVOURED EVERY BOOK HE COULD FIND!"

I WAS JUST AN UNSKILLED LABORER! I NEVER EVEN FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL! BUT NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY BRAIN HUNGERS FOR LEARNING, FOR KNOWLEDGE!

"HE STUDIED LIKE A MAN POSSESSED... AND HE REMEMBERED EVERYTHING HE READ! HIS MIND ABSORBED KNOWLEDGE LIKE A SPONGE! BUT THEN, ONE DAY, A NEW, *CHANGE* CAME OVER HIM!"

EVERYTHING'S SPINNING AROUND!

"ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, IT HAD TAKEN *THIS LONG* FOR THE EFFECTS OF THE *GAMMA RAYS* TO FINALLY BE FELT! AND, AS HE LAY ON THE FLOOR, UNCONSCIOUS, THE *TRANSFORMATION* TOOK PLACE.."

"SLOWLY, CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED! WEAKLY, HE BEGAN TO LIFT HIMSELF FROM THE FLOOR... STILL NOT DREAMING, NOT SUSPECTING WHAT HAD *HAPPENED* TO HIM!"

"IT WAS NOT UNTIL HE LOOKED INTO THE MIRROR THAT HE *KNEW...!*"

I'VE... BECOME SOMETHING *MORE* THAN HUMAN!

I AM THAT ONCE UNSKILLED LABORER! THAT MAN WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THE GAMMA RAYS INTO ONE OF THE GREATEST *BRAINS* THAT EVER LIVED!

MY FORMER NAME IS MEANINGLESS NOW! I CHOOSE TO BE KNOWN SIMPLY AS... *THE LEADER!*

WITH MY GREAT INTELLIGENCE, I ORGANIZED A VAST *SPY* RING, SEEKING TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT! BUT THOSE WHO WORKED FOR ME WERE NOT EQUAL TO THE TASK!

HOWEVER, I HAVE NOW CREATED MY OWN *HUMANOID!* HE ALONE IS WORTHY TO SERVE ME... FOR I HAVE MADE HIM *ALL-POWERFUL!*

BUT NOW, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A MISSILE BASE IN NEW MEXICO, WHERE WE FIND...

NO TRACE OF FALL-OUT FROM THE EXPLOSION YESTERDAY! THE AREA IS SAFE FOR PERSONNEL!

WHAT LUCK! THIS BOULDER SAVED ME FROM THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION... AND HID ME FROM DR. BANNER, AS WELL!

I WAS A *FOOL* TO TACKLE THE *HULK* SINGLE-HANDED!*

*SEE *ASTONISH* #62

BUT NOW I CAN DISPOSE OF MY LATEST DISGUISE AND BECOME THE *CHAMELEON* AGAIN! PERHAPS I CAN *STILL* BE OF SERVICE TO THE *LEADER* BEFORE I MAKE GOOD MY ESCAPE!

AND, IN THE OFFICE OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, BASE COMMANDER...

MAJOR TALBOT, ONE OF DR. BANNER'S LATEST NUCLEAR INVENTIONS IS TO BE MOVED TO ANOTHER BASE BY TRAIN, AND THE PENTAGON WANTS BANNER TO GO *WITH* IT TO EXPLAIN ITS OPERATION AT THE NEW BASE!

BUT I'M CONVINCED THAT BANNER IS A *SECURITY RISK*, SIR!

I DON'T TRUST HIM *EITHER*, MAJOR! I'M *SURE* HE'S MIXED UP WITH THE *HULK* IN SOME WAY! BUT WE CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE *PENTAGON!*

HOWEVER, I'M SENDING *YOU*, AS SECURITY OFFICER, TO KEEP HIM UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE!

GOOD! I'LL LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM *SOMEHOW*, GENERAL!

AND SO... YOU'RE NOT TO LEAVE THE TRAIN UNTIL IT REACHES ITS DESTINATION, BANNER! AND MAJOR TALBOT WILL HAVE HIS EYE ON YOU AT ALL TIMES! THEY MAY THINK YOU'RE A TOP SCIENTIST IN WASHINGTON, BUT I *STILL* DON'T TRUST YOU!

YOU'VE MANAGED TO MAKE ME VERY *AWARE* OF THAT, GENERAL!

HMM! I'M GLAD THAT I REMAINED HERE, DISGUISED AS A WORKER! THE *LEADER* WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS SHIPMENT!

THEN, AFTER THE CHAMELEON HAS CONTACTED THE MASTER SPY...

BANNER'S NUCLEAR DEVICE MUST NOT REACH ITS DESTINATION! AND *YOU*, MY HUMANOID, WILL SEE THAT IT *DOESN'T!*

WITH THIS HEADPIECE WHICH I DESIGNED, I CAN MENTALLY CONTROL YOUR EVERY MOVEMENT! LET US GIVE IT ITS FINAL TEST!

WALK SLOWLY TOWARDS ME! AHH, GOOD! GOOD!

THERE IS AN IRON BAR ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF YOU! ...PICK IT UP!

NOW *BEND* IT! AHHH, *WONDERFUL!* THE *STRENGTH* I HAVE GIVEN YOU IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE!

THROUGH THIS SPECTROSCOPIC TRANSCEIVER, I CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT *YOU* SEE, MY HUMANOID!

THERE I AM NOW... EXACTLY AS *YOU* SEE ME!

NOW WALK TO MY REMOTE CONTROL HELICOPTER, AND THEN ENTER IT! IT WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR OBJECTIVE!

AN HOUR LATER...

PERFECT TIMING!.. BANNER'S TRAIN IS BELOW! SOON, HIS NEWEST NUCLEAR SECRETS SHALL BE *MINE!*

NOW DESCEND! SLOWLY... SLOWLY...!!

LOOK! A WHIRLYBIRD!

IT'S NOT ONE OF OURS!

STOP! STOP, OR I'LL SHOOT!

THE BULLET WENT THROUGH HIM ...WITHOUT AFFECTING HIM! IT'S LIKE HE'S A LIVING SPONGE!

CRACK!

SECONDS LATER...

BETTER COME QUICK, MAJOR! LOOKS LIKE BIG TROUBLE!

MY DEVICE! IT MUSTN'T FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS!!

AT EASE, BANNER! YOU STAY PUT! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

I'M ORDERING YOU TO STAY IN THIS CAR UNTIL I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE! IF IT'S SOME SORT OF SCHEME OF YOURS, IT WON'T WORK, MISTER!

BUT, IF MY NUCLEAR DEVICE IS IN DANGER, I SHOULD BE THERE! IT REPRE-SENTS YEARS OF WORK!

SLAM!

I'M LOCKED IN! BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! IF ANY-THING HAPPENS TO MY MACHINE...!!

BUT THEN, DUE TO THE STRAIN AND WORRY, DR. BRUCE BANNER'S PULSE RATE CHANGES, HIS HEART-BEAT SPEEDS UP, TRIGGERING THE INCREDIBLE CHANGE WHICH HE CAN NEVER CONTROL...

OH, NO!! NOT AGAIN!

DON'T...DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

BUT, HAPPEN IT DOES!! WHERE SECONDS BEFORE A NORMAL SCIENTIST HAD STOOD, NOW THE RAMPAGING FORM OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK EXPLODES INTO ACTION!!

NO ONE LOCKS THE HULK IN!!

KHAK!

MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING THE *LEADER'S* MENTAL COMMANDS, THE OBEDIENT HUMANOID UNCOUPLES THE CAR CONTAINING THE NUCLEAR DEVICE !!

WELL DONE, MY MINDLESS ONE! NOW, THE MILITARY GUARDS IN THE OTHER SECTION ARE HELPLESS TO INTERFERE!

PREPARE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS! THE OTHER SECTION IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO LOSE SPEED AND LAG BEHIND! THEY CANNOT AFFECT YOU!

BUT, THE LEADER IS *WRONG!* THERE IS ONE WHO *CAN* AFFECT THE HUMANOID...

ONE KNOWN AS THE *HULK*... WHOSE INCREDIBLE LEGS ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HURL HIM TO THE OTHER SECTION OF THE TRAIN...

MEANWHILE, NOT YET AWARE OF THE ONRUSHING HULK, THE LEADER ORDERS HIS HUMANOID TO UNCOVER THE NUCLEAR DEVICE, SO HE CAN STUDY IT!

A FEW SECONDS OF OBSERVATION WILL BE ALL I NEED!

BUT EVEN THOSE FEW SECONDS ARE DESTINED TO BE DENIED HIM, AS THE HULK ATTACKS!!

HOWEVER, FOR ONCE THE GREEN GOLIATH'S STRENGTH ACTS *AGAINST* HIM, AS THE FORCE OF HIS LUNGE CAUSES HIM TO *BOUNCE BACK* FORCIBLY DUE TO THE SPONGE-LIKE COMPOSITION OF THE HUMANOID'S BODY!!!

AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE LEADER REALLY *SEES* THE HULK, THROUGH THE EYES OF HIS HUMANOID...

I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE... BUT I'M *NOT!* THERE IS *ANOTHER!!*

...THAT TITANIC MONSTER *ALSO* HAS GREEN SKIN! CAN IT BE THAT HIS *STRENGTH* IS THE RESULT OF GAMMA RAYS, AS MY *INTELLECT* IS??

BUT, THE HULK IS CONCERNED WITH NO SUCH PHILOSOPHICAL QUERIES! TO *HIM*, ALL THAT MATTERS IS SMASHING AN ENEMY...AS HE BATTLES WITH THE FURY AND MINDLESS RAGE OF A THOUSAND DEMONS !!

AND YET, THE LIMITLESS STRENGTH WHICH CAN CRUSH ANY OTHER LIVING MORTAL IS POWERLESS TO DEFEAT A FOE WHOSE BODY HAS THE RESILIENCY OF A *SPONGE!*

FOR THE HUMANOID FEELS NO PAIN... HE HAS NO MUSCLES WHICH CAN ACHE AND GROW WEARY...NO BRAIN WHICH CAN REGISTER FEAR AND PANIC...

FALL!! DO YOU *HEAR?!!* WHY DON'T YOU *FALL?!!*

MEANWHILE, SAFELY HIDDEN, MANY MILES FROM THE SCENE, THE LEADER CALMLY DIRECTS THE STRANGE BATTLE!

THEY'RE APPROACHING AN *OVERPASS!* THIS IS THE TIME..!!

YOU POSSESS THE POWER TO GIVE HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC SHOCKS, MY HUMANOID! *USE* THAT POWER...

SO SEVERE AND UNEXPECTED IS THE PAIN, THAT THE STARTLED HULK RELEASES HIS IRON GRIP FOR A SECOND...

...ALLOWING THE HUMANOID TO HURL HIM INTO THE AIR...

MY TIMING WAS *PERFECT!* THIS WILL BE THE END OF THE MINDLESS MONSTER!!

BUT THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* IS NOT SO EASILY DEFEATED! POSSESSING THE MIGHTIEST MUSCLES OF ANY LIVING MORTAL ...

...HE PERFORMS A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE FEAT! BY SHEER BRUTE POWER ALONE, BY ACTUAL MUSCLE CONTROL, HE FORCES HIS FLYING BODY TO LIFT ITSELF *UP*, OVER THE SOLID STONE TRESTLE!

NOTE: THE MAN DRIVING UNDER THE HULK WILL SOON BECOME KNOWN AS THE BIGGEST *LIAR* IN HIS ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD!!

ONLY THE *HULK* COULD HAVE ATTEMPTED IT! ONLY THE *HULK* WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF IT! ONLY THE *HULK* COULD HAVE *DONE* IT!!

HE'S *BACK!* PERHAPS THE MUSCULAR MONSTER IS *NOT* AS MINDLESS AS I THOUGHT! PERHAPS HE IS TRULY A WORTHY FOE FOR THE *LEADER!*

AND THOUGH THE HUMANOID AGAIN ATTEMPTS TO DISLODGE HIS MIGHTY ATTACKER WITH ADDITIONAL ELECTRIC SHOCKS, THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS NOW LACKING, AND THE HULK SHRUGS OFF THE PAIN AS THOUGH IT DOESN'T EXIST!

MY HIGH-VOLTAGE DEFENSE MEASURE IS USELESS THIS SECOND TIME!!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE HULK SEES THAT THE BOLTS WHICH HOLD THE VITAL NUCLEAR DEVICE IN PLACE ARE COMING LOOSE, DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE TITANIC STRUGGLE!

AND SOMEHOW, THE PORTION OF THE CLOUDED BRAIN WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER'S INTELLECT REALIZES THAT THE INTRICATE MACHINE, IF SHAKEN LOOSE, COULD WRECK THE TRAIN AND WREAK HAVOC UPON THE NEARBY TOWN PAST WHICH THEY ARE SPEEDING!

AND SO, DESTINY HAS SET THE STAGE FOR THE FINAL ACT OF THIS AWESOME TABLEAU . . .

. . . WHILE THE TRAIN SPEEDS ON THROUGH THE NIGHT, WITH NO ONE SUSPECTING THE GRIM FATEFUL BATTLE WHICH IS TAKING PLACE UPON THE LAST CAR!

HE CAN'T BREAK OUT OF YOUR SPONGE-LIKE GRIP! EVEN ONE AS POWERFUL AS *HE* CAN BE BEATEN IF HE CANNOT BREATHE!

BUT, THE MIGHTY LUNGS OF THE HULK CAN HOLD THEIR OXYGEN FAR LONGER THAN AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING... AND SO THE BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE...

UNTIL...

THUD!

CRASH!

WHOM!...

THE SCREEN IS *BLANK!* THE IMPACT MADE ME LOSE CONTACT! I CAN'T CONTROL THE HUMANOID!

AND WITHOUT MY MENTAL CONTROL, HE BECOMES A LIFELESS, MOTIONLESS NON-ENTITY!

BUT, ALTHOUGH THE HUMANOID LIES WHERE HE HAS FALLEN, THE *HULK*, WHOSE MIGHTY MUSCLES HAVE SHRUGGED OFF THE IMPACT, THUNDERS INTO ACTION AGAIN!

I CAN STILL REACH THE TRAIN IF I LEAP HIGH ENOUGH ... *FAST* ENOUGH!

AND, AS THE GRIM, GREEN GOLIATH HURTLES THROUGH THE AIR, THE NUCLEAR DEVICE SHAKES ITSELF LOOSE, FALLING BACK TOWARDS THE TANK WHICH IS BEHIND IT!

BUT, BEFORE IT CAN MAKE CONTACT, ACHIEVING CRITICAL MASS, AN INCREDIBLE STEEL-MUSCLED FLYING FIGURE HURLS IT FROM THE TRAIN WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND TORNADOES !!

WHUUPP!

HARMLESSLY LANDING IN THE SOFT SAND, THE NUCLEAR DEVICE REMAINS INERT, AS THE DANGER IS ENDED! BUT, THE STRAIN OF THE PAST FEW MINUTES BEGINS TO TELL ON THE INCREDIBLE HULK, AS HIS TORTURED BODY AGAIN, BEGINS TO UNDERGO ITS CATACLYSMIC CHANGE ... !

NO! I DON'T *WANT* TO BE THE PUNY BANNER AGAIN !! I WANT TO *REMAIN* THE HULK !!

WHY MUST THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?? WHY? *WHY??*

SOME TIME LATER, A CRUISING, SEARCHING HELICOPTER DISCOVERS WHAT IT IS SEEKING...

THERE IT *IS*, DIRECTLY AHEAD! PROCEED TO LAND CAUTIOUSLY, LIEUTENANT!

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMEONE DOWN THERE WITH THE MACHINE, MAJOR TALBOT!

THEN, AFTER THE SHIP HAS LANDED...

BANNER! I MIGHT HAVE *KNOWN!* ALL RIGHT, MISTER... YOU'VE GONE *TOO FAR* THIS TIME! YOU WERE ORDERED TO REMAIN LOCKED IN THAT RAILROAD CAR... AND NOW I FIND YOU HERE, NEAR THE MISSING NUCLEAR DEVICE!

GUARD! PLACE THAT MAN UNDER ARREST!

AND, AS THE WEARY SCIENTIST IS TAKEN TO A MILITARY PRISON, A STRANGE MAN SITS ALONE IN HIS STUDY, PONDERING THE EVENTS WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED...

I'VE GOT TO LEARN *MORE* ABOUT THE ONE CALLED THE *HULK!* IN ALL THE WORLD, ONLY *HE* HAS THE POWER TO FRUSTRATE ME! I MUST *DESTROY* HIM! MY *BRAIN* IS A MORE POTENT WEAPON THAN HIS *BODY*... AND IT SHALL PROVE TO BE HIS UNDOING!

WHILE MILES AWAY...

THERE IS NO EXPLANATION WHICH WILL FREE ME... WITHOUT ADMITTING I'M THE *HULK!* WHAT DO I DO *NOW?*

NEXT ISSUE: PREPARE YOURSELF FOR SOME STARTLING NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LIFE OF BRUCE BANNER, AND THE *HULK!* AND OUR THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC LETTERS PRAISING THIS UNIQUE NEW SERIES! KEEP DUCKING THOSE GAMMA RAYS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT ISH!

The End

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

64 FEB

HERE IS... ATTUMA!

"THE HUMANOID HORDE STRIKES!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

BATTLES... "THE HORDE OF HUMANOIDS!"

WE HOPE YOU REMEMBER WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST ISH, BECAUSE WE HATE THESE LONG EXPLANATIONS! BUT, FOR THOSE OF YOU CARELESS ENOUGH TO HAVE MISSED *ASTONISH* #63, HERE'S THE SCOOP... DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER CHANGED INTO THE *HULK* TO PROTECT HIS NUCLEAR INVENTION FROM BEING CAPTURED BY A STRANGE POWERFUL *HUMANOID!* BUT, DUE TO AN IRONIC QUIRK OF FATE, BANNER HIMSELF WAS LATER JAILED FOR TRYING TO SABOTAGE HIS OWN INVENTION! AND NOW, LET'S *GO...!*

DID YOU BRING ME THE *TRANQUILIZER PILLS* I ASKED FOR, GENERAL?

SURE, BANNER! AND, WITH THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE AGAINST YOU NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO *NEED* THEM!

BUT, I TELL YOU I'M *NOT* A SPY! WHY WOULD I TRY TO RUN OFF WITH MY *OWN* INVENTION! I WAS JUST TRYING TO *SAVE* IT!

WHAT'S THE USE? THE ONLY WAY TO CLEAR MYSELF IS TO ADMIT THAT I'M REALLY THE *HULK!* --AND I COULD *NEVER* DO THAT!

WRITTEN WITH THE SPARKLING SKILL OF
STAN LEE!

DRAWN WITH THE PEERLESS POWER OF
STEVE DITKO!

INKED WITH THE CLASSIC CLARITY OF
GEORGE BELL!

LETTERED WITH THE TV SET ON BY:
ARTIE SIMEK

MARVEL PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE ONLY *SUPER-HERO SOAP OPERA* IN ALL OF COMICDOM!

YOU SURE ARE A **COOL** ONE, BANNER! BUT, THOSE TRANQUILIZERS WON'T KEEP YOU FROM **BREAKING** WHEN YOU STAND TRIAL FOR **TREASON!**

I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE KNEW THE **REAL** REASON I TAKE THESE PILLS IS TO TRY TO KEEP CALM-- SO THAT I WON'T CHANGE INTO--THE **HULK?!!**

A SHORT TIME LATER...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BRUCE IS A TRAITOR! I COULDN'T **LOVE** HIM AS I DO IF HE WERE! I JUST **COULDN'T!**

YOU GET YOUR **PROOF** AT THE TRIAL, BETTY! AND THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL LOOK AT **ME** IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT!

WITH BANNER OUT OF THE WAY, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO WIN HER HEART!

MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY IN A CAREFULLY HIDDEN LABORATORY, A STRANGE, GREEN-SKINNED MAN KNOWN AS THE *THE LEADER* RECEIVES A REPORT FROM ONE OF HIS VAST NETWORK OF SECRET ESPIONAGE AGENTS...

THIS IS THE **CHAMELEON!** BRUCE BANNER IS UNDER ARREST! THE ARMY STILL PLANS TO TEST HIS NUCLEAR DEVICE ON A DESERTED ISLE! THAT IS ALL!

GOOD! THEN I **STILL** HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN THE SECRET OF BANNER'S INVENTION! MY HUMANOIDS WILL ATTACK IT **AGAIN!**

BUT, THE THING I **MOST** WANT TO DO IS--LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **HULK!** INASMUCH AS **HIS** SKIN ALSO IS GREEN, THEN **HE** MIGHT BE A VICTIM OF A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION, AS **I** WAS! AND, WHERE THE RAYS INCREASED MY **BRAIN POWER**, THEY REACTED DIFFERENTLY WITH HIM-- INCREASING HIS **STRENGTH!**

I **MUST** STUDY HIM!

THUS, WHILE THE MYSTERIOUS **LEADER** WONDERS ABOUT THE **HULK**, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE NATION'S CAPITOL, WHERE DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. ON SUSPICION OF **TREASON!**

DR. BANNER, AS YOUR LAWYER, I MUST TELL YOU THAT I **CANNOT** HELP YOU IF YOU WON'T GIVE ME ALL THE FACTS!

BUT I **CAN'T** TELL YOU ANY MORE! I'M **INNOCENT!** I'M **NOT** A SPY! BUT-- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO **PROVE** IT!

NOT WITHOUT ADMITTING THAT I'M THE HULK!

THEN YOU HAVEN'T MUCH CHANCE...!

BUT SUDDENLY, AN EAGER TEENAGER ENTERS...

RICK! WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING HERE?

WHAT KINDA QUESTION IS **THAT,** DOC! YOU'RE IN A **JAM,** AREN'T YA?

THEN, WHEN THE TWO ARE ALONE...

WHY DON'T YOU **CONFESS** THAT YOU'RE REALLY THE **HULK**, DOC? THEN THEY'D KNOW YOU'RE NOT A SPY!

I **CAN'T**, RICK! NO ONE BUT **YOU** MUST EVER KNOW MY SECRET! THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE WORLD LEARNED OF IT--

HOSTILE NATIONS WOULD STOP AT **NOTHING** TO CAPTURE ME--AND TO LEARN THE SECRET OF MY TRANSFORMATION! THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF **OTHERS** COULD BE CREATED--OTHERS LIKE THE **HULK!**

AND WHEN YOU'RE DOC BANNER, THEY **COULD** CAPTURE YOU, HUH? I GET IT!

THE ONLY ONE I COULD EVER CONFESS TO IS SOMEONE WHO WOULD NEVER REVEAL MY DREAD SECRET! BUT--I DON'T DARE TAKE THE CHANCE!

SAY! THAT GIVES **ME** AN IDEA!

RICK! WHERE ARE YOU **GOING--?? WAIT!!**

COOL IT, DOC! I OWE YOU PLENTY FOR SAVIN' MY LIFE THAT TIME--AND HERE'S WHERE I PAY PART OF IT BACK!*

MINUTES LATER...

SON, **NOBODY** CAN SEE HIM WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT! YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME!

THERE ARE FOUR AMBASSADORS AND SIX CONGRESSMEN WHO'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING...!

I **KNOW** ALL THAT, BUT MAYBE **THIS** WILL MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDS!

A TOP-PRIORITY **AVENGERS** I.D. CARD!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU **SAY** SO, BOY?

*BRUCE BANNER FIRST BECAME THE HULK BY SAVING RICK JONES FROM A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION, TAKING THE BOMB'S IMPACT HIMSELF!

AND SO... --AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR! DR. BANNER IS GUILTY OF NOTHING BUT DEVOTING HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO HIS COUNTRY!

IT WAS WISE OF YOU TO TELL ME THIS, MY BOY!

AND DR. BANNER IS **RIGHT!** IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO MAKE HIS SECRET KNOWN!

BUT WHAT ABOUT **HIM?** WHAT'LL **HAPPEN** TO HIM, SIR?

HIS IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTIFIC BRAINS! IT MUST NOT BE LOST TO US!

IT WILL TAKE ALL THE POWER AND PRESTIGE OF MY OFFICE... BUT I THINK I CAN INTERCEDE IN HIS BEHALF!

GOSH! I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO **SAY,** SIR--!

SAY **NOTHING,** SON! WE SHALL **SHARE** THIS SECRET! AND, CONVEY MY GOOD WISHES TO THE **AVENGERS** WHEN NEXT THEY MEET!

EXACTLY ONE HOUR LATER, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT APPEARS, LIVID WITH RAGE...

YOU'VE BEEN **CLEARED!** THE ORDER JUST CAME FROM THE **PENTAGON** ITSELF! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU HOODWINKED THEM, BANNER, BUT--!

IT WAS **RICK!** HE **DID** IT SOMEHOW! BUT, HOW LONG WILL MY FREEDOM **LAST?**

WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO TALK TO!

WE HAVEN'T TIME! YOU'RE ORDERED TO ASTRA ISLAND IMMEDIATELY--TO CONDUCT THE FIRST TESTS OF YOUR NEW ATOMIC DEVICE!

AND, UPON THE SMALL, NOW-DESERTED ISLE, ONE OF DR. BRUCE BANNER'S GREATEST INVENTIONS STANDS! KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S FIRST *NUCLEAR ABSORBATRON,* IT WAS BUILT TO *ABSORB* THE IMPACT OF AN ATOM BOMB BLAST, PROVIDING THE PERFECT DEFENSE AGAINST ATOMIC ATTACK!

I WON'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT THIS TIME, BANNER! YOU WON'T HAVE A **CHANCE** TO SIGNAL THE **HULK** TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK FOR YOU!

I'LL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO CONVINCE TALBOT THAT I'M NOT A SPY WHO USES THE HULK TO HELP ME!

BUT, BEFORE BANNER AND THE SECURITY OFFICER CAN REACH THE ISLE, THE *LEADER* HAS ALREADY PUT HIS OWN SINISTER PLAN INTO OPERATION...

WHERE **ONE** HUMANOID FAILED TO CAPTURE BANNER'S INVENTION LAST TIME,* A **HORDE** OF THEM **MUST** SUCCEED NOW! THEY WILL REACH ASTRA ISLE AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT...

* SEE ***ASTONISH*** #63 --STAN.

MY HUMANOIDS ARE THE PERFECT FIGHTING MACHINES! WITH THEIR PLASTIC COMPOSITION BODIES, ALMOST **NOTHING** CAN HARM THEM!

THEY NEED NO AIR TO BREATHE--NO FOOD--AND NO REST--FOR THEY ARE TIRELESS!

AND, THRU MY SPECTROSCOPIC TRANCEIVER, I CAN SEE EVERY-THING THAT MY **HUMANOIDS** SEE! I CANNOT FAIL THIS TIME!

MEANWHILE, NOT SUSPECTING THAT A HORDE OF HUMANOIDS ARE SURROUNDING THE ISLE BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SEA, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT AND BRUCE BANNER ARE LANDED NEAR THE ABSORBATRON BY A SPECIALLY-DISPATCHED LIGHT CRUISER...

AS SOON AS YOU'RE SURE THE ABSORBATRON IS READY, WE'LL SIGNAL THE CRUISER AND AN ATOMIC BLAST WILL BE SET OFF! IF YOU'RE DEVICE DOESN'T WORK, WE'LL **BOTH** PAY WITH OUR LIVES!

IT'S MY **DUTY** TO BE HERE! THE MACHINE IS **MY** INVENTION--ONLY **I** CAN OPERATE IT PROPERLY! BUT, WHY DO **YOU** INSIST ON RISKING YOUR LIFE??

BECAUSE THE WELFARE OF MY COUNTRY MEANS MORE TO ME THAN MY LIFE! EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE GIVEN YOU SECURITY CLEARANCE, I DON'T TRUST YOU! SO, WHERE **YOU** GO, **I** GO!

HE'S AS DEDICATED TO AMERICA AS **I** AM! IF ONLY HE COULD TRUST ME! IF ONLY WE COULD WORK **TOGETHER--!**

HOLD IT! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THOSE DIALS **DO** BEFORE YOU TURN THEM!!

I WANT TO BE SURE YOU'RE NOT CALLING THE **HULK** IN SOME WAY! ...AS YOU'VE DONE **BEFORE!**

I'VE **NEVER** CALLED HIM! I FEAR HIM MORE THAN **YOU** DO!

YOU **LIE!** WHEREVER HE'S APPEARED, HE'S NEVER BEEN FAR FROM **YOU!** AND **YOU'RE** NEVER AROUND WHEN HE'S ON A RAMPAGE! I **KNOW** THAT THE TWO OF YOU WORK TO-TOGETHER--YOU **MUST!**

NO! WE **DON'T!** I **HATE** HIM! CAN'T YOU SEE--??!

I'M GETTING TOO **EXCITED!** MY NERVES ARE TREMBLING! I CAN FEEL ANOTHER **CHANGE** COMING ON! BUT--NOT NOW--IT **MUSTN'T** BE NOW!

MY TRAN-QUILIZER PILLS--ALL **GONE!** THAT MEANS NOTHING CAN **STOP** IT FROM HAPPENING!

I'VE GOT TO **RUN!** THE MAJOR WON'T STAND A **CHANCE** AGAINST THE **HULK!** PER-HAPS THERE'S STILL TIME--!!

STOP!

TOO LATE! CAN'T CONTROL IT ANY LONGER! IT--IT'S **HAPPENING** --!!

BANNER! WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, YOU CAN'T GET **AWAY** WITH IT! THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLE! **BANNER!** WHERE **ARE** YOU??

THERE **IS** NO BANNER--!!!

THERE'S ONLY-- THE **HULK!!**

WHAT'S THAT **NOISE?** THAT HEAVY BREATHING?? IT SOUNDS LIKE--!

THE HULK!! THEN-- BANNER **DID** MANAGE TO CONTACT YOU!!

I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE! A PISTOL BULLET WON'T STOP **HIM!**

THIS CEMENT LEAD-LINED BUNKER IS BUILT TO WITHSTAND AN H-BOMB BLAST! IF I CAN JUST GET THE TEN-TON **DOOR** DOWN IN TIME--!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL JUST **MAKE** IT!

WHOOM! THUUM

HE'S **LOOSEN-ING** THE DOOR! IT--IT ISN'T **POSSIBLE!**

BUT, THE CLOUDED BRAIN OF THE HULK SOON LOSES INTEREST IN THE TRAPPED MAJOR! SLOWLY HE TURNS, LOOKING ABOUT HIM-- TRYING TO REMEMBER WHERE HE IS-- AND WHAT HE'S DOING THERE...

IT'S **BANNER'S** FAULT! **HE** BROUGHT ME HERE! BUT, WHERE **IS** HE??

AND, WHILE THE SLOW-THINKING **HULK** FORGETS THAT HE AND BRUCE BANNER ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THE **LEADER'S** HUMANOIDS APPROACH THE ISLE...

THEY ARE HEADED RIGHT TOWARDS BANNER'S INVENTION! THIS TIME THEY SHALL NOT FAIL ME!

I'M LUCKIER THAN I DARED **HOPE** TO BE! THE **HULK** IS THERE, TOO! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO **CAPTURE** HIM! I **MUST** LEARN HIS SECRET!

THUS, TEMPORARILY IGNORING THE ABSORBATRON, THE LEADER ORDERS HIS MINDLESS HUMANOIDS TO ATTACK THE ONLY OTHER LIVING HUMAN WHO POSSESSES **GREEN SKIN!**

HE MUST BE SEIZED AND BROUGHT TO ME ALIVE! YOU HAVE THE POWER TO **DO** IT!

HAH! I'M BEING **ATTACKED!** AT LAST I HAVE SOMETHING TO **SMASH!!**

THEN, WITH A SAVAGE ROAR OF FURY, THE STRONGEST MORTAL TO WALK THE EARTH GOES ON AN UNCONTROLLABLE **RAMPAGE!!!**

NO ONE CAN BEAT THE **HULK!!**

FLEXING HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES, USING POWER WHICH WE CAN ONLY **HINT** AT, THE GREEN GOLIATH SHAKES OFF HIS ATTACKERS LIKE A MASTIFF SHAKES THE RAIN!

BUT, THOUGH THEY CANNOT MATCH HIS AWESOME STRENGTH, THEIR SUPPLE PLASTIC BODIES ARE IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN OR TO INJURY, AND SO THE HUMANOIDS ATTACK AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...WHILE THE **LEADER** WATCHES WITH COLD, UNBLINKING EYES--TRANSMITTING THEIR ORDERS BY SHEER MENTAL POWER...

YOU MUST NOT STOP! HE CANNOT HARM YOU! YOU MUST CONQUER HIM!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CONCRETE BUNKER, MAJOR TALBOT WORKS FEVERISHLY TO PROTECT THE ABSORBATRON...

I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE NOTHING CAN DAMAGE THE NUCLEAR DEVICE! THESE CONTROLS SHOULD DO IT--!

AS A SERIES OF ELECTRONIC BUTTONS ARE PRESSED, THE ENTIRE COMPLEX MACHINE IS SLOWLY LOWERED INTO AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER AND ENCLOSED WITH TITANIUM SHIELDING!

ONLY **THEN** DOES THE DEDICATED OFFICER CONTACT THE WAITING CRUISER...

THE **HULK** IS TRAPPED HERE ON THE ISLE! THE ABSORBATRON IS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER! CONTACT GENERAL ROSS FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!

WHILE, ON THE SURFACE, THE INCREDIBLE BATTLE CONTINUES...

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE HULK STRUCK A FOE WHO COULD NOT BE INJURED--WHOSE BODY, MADE OF A RESILIENT PLASTIC, COULD SNAP BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS THE BLOW HAD PASSED...!

NEVER BEFORE HAS HE FOUGHT CREATURES AS TIRELESS AS HE--AS IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN AS HE--!!

THEY'RE NOT *ALIVE!* THEY'RE JUST SOME KIND OF FIGHTING *MACHINES!!*

NOTE: THE THOUGHT WHICH THE HULK JUST EXPRESSED, TOOK A FULL FOUR MINUTES TO REACH FRUITION IN HIS CLOUDED BRAIN! BUT THEN, HE LABORIOUSLY ACHIEVES *ANOTHER* THOUGHT...

I'LL FINISH THEM ALL AT ONCE BY SMASHING INTO SOMETHING--!!

WHROOM!

BUT *STILL* HIS SLUGGISH BRAIN CANNOT COMPREHEND THAT THEIR BODIES ARE GAMMAFIED PLASTIC, CAPABLE OF ABSORBING ANY IMPACT WITHOUT CAUSING THEM ANY HARM!

GO DOWN!! FALL!! NOTHING STANDS UP TO THE *HULK!* YOU CAN'T FIGHT ME! *NO ONE* CAN FIGHT *ME!!*

NEXT, THE HULK RESORTS TO HIS INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES, ATTEMPTING TO LEAP INTO THE AIR AND THEN COME CRASHING DOWN AGAIN! BUT...

THAT'S IT, MY HUMANOIDS! **HOLD HIM!** THE **LEADER** IS PROUD OF YOU!

SOONER OR LATER HE WILL REALIZE HE CANNOT HURT YOU, AND THEN HIS CONFUSED BRAIN WILL **PANIC** AT THE THOUGHT!

EVEN NOW HE SEES HIS FISTS BOUNCING HARMLESSLY OFF YOU, TIME AND AGAIN! THE HELPLESS RAGE, THE FRUSTRATION HE MUST FEEL, WILL SOON BE MORE THAN HIS PRIMITIVE BRAIN CAN BEAR--!!

LIKE A GREAT, MINDLESS, RAMPAGING BEAST, HE'LL RESORT TO **ANYTHING** BEFORE HE ADMITS DEFEAT! NOW HE'S HURLING A GIANT **BOULDER** AT ONE OF MY HUMANOIDS--!

HIS BRAIN MUST BE **SEETHING** AT THE SIGHT OF THAT POWERFUL OBJECT HARMLESSLY BOUNCING OFF MY INHUMAN ARMY AND RICHOCHETTING BACK TO **HIM!**

KRAKK!

WHY WON'T THEY **FALL??** WHY CAN'T I **SMASH** THEM?? WHY? **WHY??**

MEANTIME, HAVING CONTACTED GENERAL ROSS, THE CRUISER AGAIN COMMUNICATES WITH THE WAITING SECURITY OFFICER...

WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO LAND A LARGE FIGHTING FORCE ON THE ISLE WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED! CAN YOU HOLD OUT, MAJOR?

OF COURSE! I'M IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER! BUT, DON'T LET THE HULK ESCAPE!

WE WONDER WHAT MAJOR TALBOT WOULD SAY IF HE KNEW THERE WAS ANOTHER WHO DIDN'T WANT THE HULK TO ESCAPE...?

SOON THE HULK WILL BE BEATEN! THEN, HE SHALL BROUGHT TO ME-- AND I'LL LEARN THE SECRET OF HIS INHUMAN STRENGTH!

PERHAPS-- I MIGHT FIND A WAY TO MAKE HIM MY ALLY!!

WHAT AN UNBEATABLE ALLIANCE IT WOULD BE! MY MAGNIFICENT BRAIN COMBINED WITH HIS LIMITLESS STRENGTH!! AND, IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, WE ARE BOTH THE PRODUCTS OF MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS!

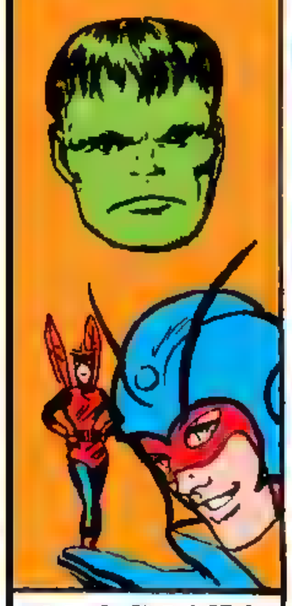
BUT, AS THE BATTLE RAGES, NOT EVEN THE HYPER-INTELLIGENT LEADER SUSPECTS THE FANTASTIC EVENT WHICH IS ABOUT TO OCCUR...

FOR, THE HULK IS GROWING MORE AND MORE SAVAGE--MORE AND MORE WILD--AND, AS HE DOES, HIS PULSE RATE IS CHANGING--THE PULSE RATE WHICH TRIGGERS OFF HIS INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION--

...AND SO, WHILE THE EVIL LEADER WATCHES, AND WHILE THE CRUISER STEAMS TOWARD THE FATEFUL ISLE, WITH A COMPLEMENT OF WELL-ARMED TROOPS, THE RAMPAGING HULK IS ABOUT TO CHANGE BACK AGAIN--BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!

THE END

THUS, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE HULK AND HIS HOSTILE HORDE OF ATTACKERS UNTIL NEXT ISH, WHEN THE NEWEST CHAPTER OF OUR SENSATIONAL SUPER-SERIAL WILL DAZZLE YOUR EYES, AND STARTLE YOUR SENSES! NEVER HAS A NEW FANTASY SERIES BEEN SO WILDLY ACCLAIMED! NEVER HAS A COMIC MAG CHARACTER BEEN SO WIDELY DISCUSSED! AND NEVER HAVE WE BEEN SO GRATEFUL TO YOU, FOR MAKING THE HULK ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THIS, THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!



MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

65 MAR

ANOTHER FABULOUS MARVEL FIRST!

Introducing: The NEW GIANT-MAN!

Also: SEE THE INCREDIBLE HULK ON A RAMPAGE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

"On The RAMPAGE AGAINST THE REDS!"

ALL NEW ACTION AND STARTLING SURPRISES AS THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON EARTH DEFIES THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE RUTHLESS RED MASTERS OF TYRANNY!

LAST ISSUE, WE LEFT THE HULK BATTLING AN INDESTRUCTIBLE HORDE OF HUMANOIDS, AS A HEAVILY ARMED MARINE TASK FORCE PREPARES TO ATTACK HIM! AND, AS IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR OL' GREEN SKIN, THE STRAIN OF BATTLE IS CAUSING HIS BODY CHEMISTRY TO BEGIN THE INCREDIBLE CHANGE BACK TO HIS OTHER IDENTITY OF BRUCE BANNER, SCIENTIST!

HE STILL DOESN'T SEE US! *SURROUND HIM!* WE'LL ATTACK WITH *GRENADES!*

ANOTHER SMASHING EPISODE *of the* GREATEST CONTINUED CLIFF-HANGER IN ALL OF COMICDOM!

WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE (OUR FAITHFUL WRITER!)
DRAWN BY: STEVE DITKO (OUR RELIABLE ARTIST!)
INKED BY: DICK AYERS (OUR DEPENDABLE INKER!)
LETTERED BY: S. ROSEN (OUR OTHER LETTERER!)

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS HE'S FIGHTING, LIEUTENANT?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, GYRENE! ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS... *FAN OUT*...ON THE DOUBLE!!

NOW LET 'IM *HAVE* IT!!

WHAT IF THE GRENADES DON'T STOP HIM??

THEN YOU BETTER MAKE SURE YOUR *INSURANCE* IS ALL PAID UP, MAC!

HE DIDN'T EVEN *FEEL* IT! *MOVE IN!* WE'LL HAVE TO TRY A *DIRECT HIT!*

WHOOM!

MEANWHILE, ON THE MAINLAND, THE EVIL GENIUS WHO IS MENTALLY CONTROLLING THE POWERFUL HUMANOIDS, WITNESSES THE SCENE WITH GRIM DISPLEASURE!

TROOPS ATTACKING THE HULK! MY HUMANOIDS MUST CAPTURE HIM QUICKLY, BEFORE *THEY* CHEAT ME OF MY PRIZE!

BUT, FATE SUDDENLY TAKES A HAND, THWARTING BOTH THE SINISTER *LEADER* AND HIS STARTLED TROOPS!

LOOK OUT! OUR GRENADES MADE THE LEDGE COLLAPSE!

SENSING THAT HIS FANTASTIC *CHANGE* IS ABOUT TO OCCUR, THE TITANIC *HULK* SAVAGELY PROPELS HIMSELF AWAY FROM THE BATTLE-SCARRED ISLE...

WHILE THE SILENT *LEADER* MENTALLY COMMANDS HIS HUMAN-OIDS TO RETURN TO THE MAINLAND, AS THEY MOVE SLOWLY UNDER THE MURKY SEA...

ANY SIGN OF THE *HULK* YET?

NO, SIR! *NO ONE* HAS REAPPEARED AT THE SURFACE!

DO YOU THINK HE'S *FINISHED*, MAJOR TALBOT?

I DOUBT IT! BUT, WHILE WE KEEP WATCH, SEND A DETAIL TO SEARCH FOR DR. *BRUCE BANNER!*

THE SCIENTIST WHO WAS ON THE ISLE WITH YOU? YES, SIR! IF HE'S *HERE*, WE'LL FIND 'IM!

SECONDS LATER, MORE THAN A MILE AWAY, THE TIRELESS ARMS AND LEGS WHICH HAVE BEEN KNIFING THROUGH THE SEA BEGIN TO SLOW DOWN...

...AS THE VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS *STRENGTH* STARTS TO FADE AWAY, AND THE MASSIVE MUSCLES BEGIN TO SHRINK AND CONTRACT...

...UNTIL, IN PLACE OF THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*, THE VULNERABLE FORM OF *BRUCE BANNER* APPEARS, HIS NOW-NORMAL LUNGS GASPING FOR AIR!!

AND, AS THE STRUGGLING SCIENTIST DESPERATELY REACHES THE SURFACE, COLD, EMOTIONLESS EYES WATCH HIM FROM THE DECK OF A PROWLING, HOSTILE SUB...

PREPARE TO SEIZE SURVIVOR!

AHHH! WE HAVE MADE A *PRIZE* CATCH! IT IS THE FAMOUS AMERICAN SCIENTIST, DR. BANNER!

I APPRECIATE YOUR FISHING ME OUT OF THE SEA, CAPTAIN! AND NOW, IF YOU'LL RETURN ME TO ASTRA ISLE!..

HAH! LISTEN TO THE FOOL!!

YOU THINK WE WILL ALLOW YOU TO *RETURN*... AND USE YOUR TALENTS TO AID THE DEMOCRACIES ??

UHHH!

TAKE HIM BELOW! KEEP HIM UNDER GUARD WHILE WE HEAD FOR HOME WATERS!

OH, *NO!* IF I DON'T RETURN, TALBOT WILL BE *SURE* I'M A TRAITOR!

BUT, BEFORE THE UNDERSEA CRAFT CAN FULLY SUBMERGE...

DID YOU SEE *THAT*, CAPTAIN?

ROGER! RADIO HOME BASE AT ONCE!

AND, BACK ON ASTRA ISLE...

STILL NO TRACE OF EITHER THE HULK OR DR. BANNER, SIR!

I WAS *AFRAID* OF THAT! WELL, KEEP SEARCHING! BANNER MUST STILL BE HIDING ON THE ISLAND SOMEWHERE!

WE JUST RECEIVED THIS REPORT, FROM ONE OF OUR PATROL PLANES, MAJOR TALBOT! BANNER WAS PICKED UP BY A COMMIE SUB LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES AGO!

LET ME *SEE* THAT!

I *KNEW* IT! HE *IS* A SPY! THIS *PROVES* IT! BUT, WHAT IF HE DOESN'T RETURN? HE MAY HAVE DEFECTED TO THE REDS FOR *GOOD!*

AT THAT MOMENT, *ANOTHER* MAN ALSO BROODS ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT HAVE JUST TRANSPIRED...

ONCE AGAIN THE HULK HAS FOILED MY PLANS... AND EVADED MY TRAP!

BUT I *MUST* FIND A WAY TO CAPTURE HIM! HIS STRENGTH WOULD MAKE HIM THE PERFECT *PARTNER* FOR ME!

AND, HIS GREEN SKIN CONVINCES ME THAT HE GAINED HIS *PHYSICAL* POWER THROUGH A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION, JUST AS *I* GAINED MY *MENTAL* POWER! WE ARE *FATED* TO BECOME ALLIES!

PERHAPS IF I COULD FIND A WAY TO CAPTURE *DR. BANNER...!! HE* MAY HOLD THE KEY TO THE HULK'S SECRET... FOR WHEREVER *ONE* APPEARS... THE *OTHER* IS NEVER FAR AWAY!

SOMETIME LATER, WITHIN THE BORDERS OF A CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATION, A PRISONER IS TAKEN TO A HEAVILY-GUARDED WEAPONS RESEARCH CENTER...

KEEP MOVING, BANNER! YOU ARE NO LONGER IN A WEAK DEMOCRACY! *HERE* YOU WILL LEARN THE MEANING OF DISCIPLINE, AND *OBEDIENCE!*

WHY HAVE I BEEN BROUGHT HERE? I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN! I DEMAND MY RIGHTS!

NATURALLY, DOCTOR BANNER! NATURALLY! BUT, THERE IS A DELICATE POINT OF LAW INVOLVED! YOU WERE PICKED UP IN *INTERNATIONAL WATERS*, SO PERHAPS YOU BELONG TO *US!*

ARE YOU HUNGRY, DR. BANNER?

I'M *STARVING!* THEY HAVEN'T FED ME IN TWO DAYS!

OH, WHAT A PITY! THAT WAS MOST CARELESS OF THEM! BUT, PERHAPS THEY HAD THEIR REASONS!

REASONS? *WHAT* REASONS?

A MAN WHO IS *HUNGRY* WILL DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR FOOD! AND, THERE ARE THINGS WE WISH YOU TO DO FOR US!

YOU CAN'T *FORCE* ME TO WORK FOR YOU!!

MY DEAR DR. BANNER! WE ARE NOT TYRANTS! WE DO NOT FORCE *ANYONE!* BUT, OF COURSE, IF YOU WISH TO BE *FED...!*

THIS IS ONE OF OUR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT LABS! YOU DON'T SEE ANYONE BEING *FORCED* TO WORK, DO YOU?

WHY ARE THERE *ARMED GUARDS* IN THE ROOM?!!

TO PROTECT OUR WORKERS AGAINST *SPIES*, OF COURSE!

WAIT! I *KNOW* THAT MAN! HE--HE'S PROFESSOR STROMM, THE GEOPHYSICIST! BUT, HE WAS REPORTED *DEAD!*

WHY DOESN'T HE *HEAR* ME? WHY DOES HE STARE SO BLANKLY AHEAD OF HIM??

ALAS, POOR FELLOW! HE TRIED TO LEAVE OUR FAIR NATION AND WORK FOR THE AMERICANS! WE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO "DISCIPLINE" HIM!

AND NOW, WE KEEP THE GOOD PROFESSOR HERE AS A LESSON TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE UNGRATEFUL ENOUGH TO TRY TO DEFY US!

PROFESSOR!!!

YOU WASTE YOUR TIME! HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND!

HAVE YOU SEEN *ENOUGH*, BANNER?

ANOTHER ONE! THEY'VE CAPTURED *ANOTHER* ONE! WHERE WILL IT ALL *END*??

HOW MUCH LONGER MUST WE BE FORCED TO WORK FOR THESE HEARTLESS DESPOTS?? WE MUST *REVOLT*! BETTER *DEATH* THAN SLAVERY!

GUARDS! SILENCE HIM!!

YOU CAN SILENCE ME! YOU CAN DESTROY ME! BUT I'LL SMASH MY WORK FIRST! I'LL NEVER LET *YOU* USE THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR!

CLANG!

STOP HIM!

WONK!

MY APOLOGIES, DR. BANNER! I'M SORRY THAT YOUR FIRST DAY WITH US WAS MARRED BY SUCH AN UNSEEMLY OUTBURST!

SPARE ME YOUR CROCODILE TEARS! WHAT WILL YOU *DO* WITH HIM NOW?

DO? WE SHALL LOOK AFTER HIS WOUNDS, OF COURSE, AND COMFORT HIM! WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR *COMPASSION*!

SEE HOW WE PLACE HIM IN A SMALL, SNUG CELL WHERE NO ONE WILL DISTURB HIM! HE'LL BE ABLE TO REST THERE... TO SEE THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS... UNTIL HE REALIZES THAT WE ARE HIS *FRIENDS!*

BUT I'M SURE THAT *YOU* WILL NOT NEED SUCH PERSUASION! I'M SURE YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE LIGHT!

AND *NOW*, COMRADE DOCTOR, ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT? THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EXPERIMENTS THAT A MAN OF YOUR TALENTS COULD HELP US WITH!

MISTER, THERE'S ONE LITTLE FAVOR YOU COULD DO FOR ME! JUST *HOLD YOUR BREATH* WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME TO SAY YES!

THAT WAS MOST FOOLISH OF YOU, BANNER! BUT, A BRIEF STAY IN YOUR NEW QUARTERS WILL SOON CHANGE YOUR MIND! ***USHER HIM IN,*** COMRADES!

BEFORE LONG, HE'LL BE ***BEGGING*** US TO LET HIM WORK FOR US! HE'LL DO ***ANYTHING*** TO BE LET OUT OF THERE!

WELL, BANNER, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS ***IT!*** I'LL NEVER AGREE TO WORK FOR THE COMMIES!... AND THEY'LL NEVER LET ME GO UNTIL I DO!!

AT ANY RATE, ONCE I'M DONE FOR, IT'LL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO STOP THE HULK FROM INJURING ANYBODY!

WAIT A MINUTE!! THE ***HULK!*** OF ***COURSE!*** ***THAT'S*** THE ANSWER! DR. BANNER HASN'T A CHANCE... BUT THE ***HULK*** MIGHT BE ABLE TO BREAK OUT OF HERE!

THUS, FIRED WITH NEW HOPE, THE CAPTIVE SCIENTIST CONCENTRATES ON THE CRUEL, MERCILESS THINGS HE HAS WITNESSED, AS HIS BODY CHEMISTRY GETS CLOSER TO THE BOILING POINT...!

UNTIL, FINALLY...

IT'S ***WORKING!!*** HA HA! I'M CHANGING! GROWING STRONGER... ***STRONGER!!*** NO CHAINS CAN HOLD ME ***NOW!***

AND, UNNOTICED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, A SMALL CRACK APPEARS IN THE SOLID STONE MASONRY...

A CRACK WHICH GROWS LARGER, AND LARGER, UNTIL AT LAST...

W H U M!

...THE MIGHTIEST LIVING MORTAL ON EARTH IS ***FREE!***

COMRADES!! ***LOOK!*** IT--IT'S THE ***HULK!***

QUICK!! WHEEL IN THE NEW HIGH-INTENSITY FIELD CANNON!

WHERE DID HE ***COME*** FROM? HOW...??

IN AN ARMAMENT TESTING CENTER SUCH AS THIS, EVEN THE MIGHTY *HULK* HASN'T A CHANCE! WE HAVE TOO MANY WEAPONS TO USE AGAINST HIM!

HE'S AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! GIVE HIM A SUSTAINED BURST! *FIRE!!*

POWERFUL GUN... AIMED AT ME!! NEED SHIELD!! I'LL USE THE *FLOOR! ARGHHH!!* JUST IN TIME!!

WHOOM!

SKRAK!

LOOK OUT! HE...HE'S RIPPING UP THE *FLOOR* UNDER OUR FEET! *UNGHHH!!*

NOTHING'LL STOP THE HULK!!!

THWIPPP!

DON'T *PANIC!* HE'S *STILL* ONLY HUMAN! BRING IN THE NEW *EVAPO-RAY BLASTER!* SET IT TO HIGHEST IMPACT! NOW... *FIRE!*

I'LL *GET* 'EM FOR THIS!!

THEN, THE INCREDIBLE HULK PERFORMS ONE OF HIS MOST AWESOME FEATS... HE LEAPS UP, RIGHT THROUGH THE TOP OF THE BRICK STRUCTURE, AND THEN *DOWN* AGAIN, A FEW FEET AWAY... PROPELLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES OF ALL TIME...

KROOM!

COMRADE... *LOOK!*

WE MUST BE GOING *MAD!*

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE LIVING TITAN LANDS ATOP THE EVAPO-RAY, WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND PILE-DRIVERS!!

RUN, COMRADE!!

IT'S THE HULK *AGAIN! NOTHING* CAN BEAT HIM!

BUT, THE DESPERATE RED LEADER, IN A PAROXYSM OF FEAR, ORDERS STILL MORE WEAPONS BROUGHT INTO PLAY...!

IF HE HITS US WITH THAT BOULDER, WE'RE *DONE FOR!*

THE VAPORIZER!! *USE IT,* YOU FOOL! *FIRE!*

IT *WORKED!* IT VAPORIZED THE BOULDER INTO *NOTHING-NESS!*

AS SOON AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, WE'LL TRAIN IT ON THE HULK *HIMSELF!*

BEAM GOES THROUGH WALLS... THROUGH EVERYTHING! BUT IT WON'T HIT *ME!* I'LL *SHOW* 'EM...!

SUDDENLY, THE HULK SLAMS HIS TWO MAMMOTH HANDS TOGETHER...IN AN EXPLOSIVE THUNDER-CLAP...!

BAM

BOOM

A THUNDERCLAP, SO POWERFUL, THAT IT SENDS MEN, MACHINES, WEAPONS, ALL HURTLING THROUGH THE WALL LIKE BUCKSHOT!

AND, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...WHEN THE TUMULT DIES DOWN...ONE FIGURE STRIDES FORTH...HUGE, INVINCIBLE, CHARGED WITH POWER SO GREAT, IT CONTINUALLY FEEDS UPON ITSELF...THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

RUN, RUN! EVERYONE RUNS FROM *ME!*

BUT THEN, FEELING A DULL, THROBBING ACHE IN HIS SHOULDER, THE BRUTISH EYES OF THE HULK SEE THAT HE HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY THE VAPORIZER...!

SHOULDER HURT...!!

YOU *SAVED* ME! I BROKE FREE WHEN YOU TORE DOWN THE WALLS! YOU WERE *MAGNIFICENT!* AND NOW... I WANT TO HELP *YOU!*

GO 'WAY...!

NO! THE VAPORIZER RAY MIGHT INFECT YOUR BLOODSTREAM ...BUT THIS SALVE, A SPECIAL FORMULA OF MY OWN, CAN COUNTERACT IT!

NO HARM MUST COME TO YOU! NOT SO LONG AS YOU FIGHT THOSE EVIL ONES!

HERE IS FOOD... DRINK...IF YOU ARE TO SURVIVE IN THIS HOSTILE LAND... AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS, YOU WILL NEED NOURISHMENT!

NO MORE TALK! DON'T NEED *NOTHING!* I'M THE *HULK!*

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, A FATEFUL CALL IS BEING MADE BY A MAN WHOSE MERCILESS EYES BLAZE WITH FANATICAL HATRED!!

THAT'S *RIGHT!* SEND TANKS... HEAVY ARTILLERY... EVERYTHING IN OUR ARSENAL! THE HULK MUST *DIE!*

HURRY! I'LL KEEP HIM HERE UNTIL YOU ARRIVE! I'LL DO IT *MY* WAY!

IF I CAN CATCH HIM OFF-GUARD, I'LL *DESTROY* HIM! NOTHING MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD, NO MATTER *HOW* STRONG, CAN SURVIVE THIS *PROTON GUN!*

AND, IF I FAIL, THE MOST POWERFUL DESTRUCTIVE FORCE EVER ASSEMBLED IS SPEEDING TO THE SCENE TO FINISH THE JOB! NO MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENS, *THE HULK IS DOOMED!!*

DON'T EVEN *TRY* TO GUESS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT! STAN AND STEVE HAVE TOO MANY STARTLING SURPRISES IN STORE FOR YOU (AND FOR OUR JOLLY GREEN GIANT)! SO DON'T RUN OUT ON US NEXT ISH... WE'LL BE *LOOKING* FOR YOU!

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

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A BREATH-TAKING VILLAINESS!
A NERVE-SHATTERING SUPER-POWER!
AND, GIANT-MAN BECOMES A VICTIM OF

"THE MENACE OF MADAM MACABRE!"

WHO IS THE UNEXPECTED GUEST VILLAIN WHO SUDDENLY APPEARS ON PAGE 4?

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

PLUS:

"THE POWER OF DOCTOR BANNER!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

AS THE LATEST CHAPTER OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ADVENTURE SERIAL OPENS, WE FIND THE INCREDIBLE **HULK** TRAPPED IN AN IRON CURTAIN NATION, WHERE HE HAS JUST BEEN BEFRIENDED BY ONE LONE FREEDOM-LOVING SCIENTIST!

HOWEVER, STEALING UP BEHIND THEM IS THE FANATICAL COMMANDANT OF THE RED WEAPONS TESTING CENTER, AIMING A DEADLY *PROTON GUN* POINT BLANK AT HIS TARGET!

"THE POWER OF DOCTOR BANNER!"

I'VE TREATED YOUR WOUND! THE VAPORIZER RAY WILL NO LONGER INFECT YOUR BLOODSTREAM!

NOW YOU MUST *CONTINUE* TO SMASH THE RED TYRANTS!

YOU GO! HULK WALKS *ALONE!*

POWER-PACKED SCRIPT BY... STAN LEE
HARD-HITTING ART BY.....STEVE DITKO
TWO-FISTED INKING BY....VINCE COLLETTA
SILKEN-SOFT LETTERING BY..ART SIMEK

NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW! DEATH TO THE GREEN-SKINNED BRUTE!

HULK! IT'S THE COMMANDANT! HE MUST NOT DESTROY YOU!

WHAT IS THAT FOOL SCIENTIST DOING??

WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, THE OLDER MAN HURLS HIMSELF FULL INTO THE PATH OF THE DEADLY PROTON BEAM, DEFIANCE RINGING FROM HIS LIPS!

MY USEFULNESS IS OVER! BUT THE HULK MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR LIBERTY!

YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT FREE MEN! NEVER! NEVER!

UNHHHH...

HE MUST HAVE BEEN INSANE TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE FOR THAT MONSTER!

MUST WAIT AN HOUR BETWEEN PROTON BURSTS! I'LL RETURN TO THE HULK LATER!

MEANWHILE...

THANKS TO YOU, I-- SHALL NOT-- DIE A SLAVE--!

DEAD! SAVED MY LIFE! DIED FOR HULK!

SLOWLY, THE CLOUDY BRAIN OF THE HUMAN GOLIATH REMEMBERS HOW THE DEAD MAN HAD CLEANSED HIS WOUND EARLIER... AND NOW HAS MADE THE FINAL SACRIFICE! AND, AS HE REMEMBERS, STARK RAGE FILLS HIS WILDLY PUMPING HEART...!

WAS FRIEND! DIED FOR HULK!

THEY KILLED HULK'S FRIEND! THEY KILLED HULK'S FRIEND!

BRAKKK!

NOW IT IS HULK'S TURN!

SAVAGELY, THE TOWERING TITAN PURSUES HIS FLEEING FOE... MAKING UP IN RAW *POWER* WHAT HE LACKS IN CUNNING AND SPEED!

BRRUMM

NO ONE ESCAPES HULK!

HULK WILL *FIND!* HULK WILL *DESTROY!!*

THUMP!

STOMP!

WHAT TERRIBLE RAMPAGING MENACE HAS BEEN LET LOOSE IN OUR LAND?? HIS POWER--HIS *RAGE*--THEY'RE UNIMAGINABLE!

WHOOM

NONE CAN HIDE FROM *HULK!*

HE'S TEARING THE BUILDING APART, WITH HIS BARE HANDS! HE'LL FIND ME WITHIN MINUTES!

HE'LL SHOW ME NO MERCY! HE *KNOWS* THE EVIL THINGS I'VE DONE!

BUT, THE MORE THE HULK RAGES, THE FASTER HIS HEART BEATS-- THE HIGHER HIS BLOOD PRESSURE RISES--

...UNTIL IT REACHES THE CRUCIAL POINT WHICH TRIGGERS THE MOST AMAZING TRANSFORMATION IN MEDICAL HISTORY...

ARMS GETTING TIRED! *NO!* NOT *NOW!*

AND THEN, REALIZATION SLOWLY DAWNS IN HIS BRUTISH BRAIN...

MUSTN'T CHANGE! MUSTN'T STOP BEING HULK! *NO! NO!*

BUT, THE HARDER HE TRIES TO FIGHT THE INEVITABLE, THE FASTER HIS HEART BEATS, AND THE SOONER THE CHANGE OCCURS...!

THE POUNDING IS GROWING WEAKER! WHAT CAN HAVE *HAPPENED* TO HIM?

CAN'T STOP NOW! CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE--!

CAN'T-- CAN'T--!

AND, EVEN AS THE EXHAUSTED AMERICAN SCIENTIST, WHO *WAS* THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, SAGS TO THE GROUND, A POWERFUL ARMORED FORCE RUMBLES TO THE SCENE...

IT IS *MADNESS,* SENDING SO LARGE A TASK FORCE MERELY TO BATTLE ONE FREEDOM FIGHTER!

FOOL! HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF-- THE *HULK??!*

MEANTIME, BEHIND LOCKED DOORS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, A TENSE, TOP-LEVEL CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE...

IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE, BRUCE BANNER IS SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN! THIS IS *DISASTROUS!*

BANNER IS ONE OF OUR *TOP* ATOMIC SCIENTISTS! HE MUST BE RESCUED--OR *SILENCED!* HE MUST NEVER TELL THE REDS WHAT HE *KNOWS* OF OUR DEFENSES!

SIR! I WISH TO VOLUNTEER TO GO BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN AND DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT OUR SECURITY!

REPLY *NEGATIVE,* MAJOR TALBOT! IT IS TOO RISKY! IT COULD CREATE A DANGEROUS INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!

BUT, I COULD RESIGN MY COMMISSION-- GO AS A CIVILIAN!

REQUEST DENIED! WE ARE SORRY, MAJOR!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MAJOR TALBOT! YOU *WARNED* US THAT BANNER WAS A SECURITY RISK!

ALTHOUGH THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT HE'S MERELY A *CAPTIVE* OF THE REDS!

THAT'S WHY I *REALLY* WANTED THIS MISSION! THEY'LL *NEVER* BELIEVE HE'S A TRAITOR UNLESS I BRING THEM *PROOF!*

AND, MOST OF ALL, I MUST CONVINCE *BETTY ROSS* OF HIS GUILT, IN ORDER TO WIN HER LOVE!

SOME TIME LATER, AT THE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS...

DAD, HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ABOUT BRUCE BANNER YET?

JUST A MINUTE, BETTY! I'M GETTING A REPORT RIGHT NOW!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?? REPEAT IT AGAIN, WORD FOR WORD! I SEE--NO, THERE ARE NO FURTHER ORDERS AT THIS TIME!

DAD! WHAT IS IT??

BANNER IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN! THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT RULE OUT THE THEORY THAT HE HAS DEFECTED TO THE COMMUNISTS!

OH NO! NO!

I NEVER LIKED HIM! NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS MAN ENOUGH FOR YOU! HIM AND HIS BLASTED TEST-TUBES--HIS MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES--HIS SECRETS THAT HE ALWAYS KEPT TO HIMSELF! AND YET, I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D TURN TRAITOR!

BUT, HOW CAN WE BE SURE?? PERHAPS THERE'S AN EXPLANATION!

THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION, BETTY--THE MAN IS NOTHING MORE THAN A RED SPY! YOU'VE GOT TO ACCEPT IT!

GLENN! YOU--YOU THINK SO, TOO??

IT'S BETTER THAT YOU LEARN IT NOW, BETTY! WHAT IF YOU HAD MARRIED HIM?

CAN THAT BE WHY HE NEVER PROPOSED TO ME--NEVER SPOKE OF OUR FUTURE TOGETHER?

I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU, BETTY! BUT, TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS! YOU'LL GET OVER HIM, MY DEAR!

OH NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NOT BRUCE! NOT THE MAN I LOVE!

YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND, GLENN! YOU WARNED US ABOUT HIM FROM THE START! I WON'T FORGET THAT!

AND, IN STILL ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY, WE FIND THE MYSTERIOUS MASTER OF AN INTERNATIONAL SPY NETWORK--THE GREEN-SKINNED VICTIM OF A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION WHICH GAVE HIM ONE OF THE GREATEST BRAINS ON EARTH--THE MAN KNOWN SIMPLY AS--THE LEADER!

ONCE AGAIN I HAVE FAILED TO CAPTURE THE HULK! BUT, I SHALL NEVER CEASE TRYING!

WITH HIM AS AN ALLY, WE CAN RULE THE WORLD!

HE MUST BE MADE TO JOIN ME! OR ELSE, HE MUST BE--ELIMINATED!

WE ARE THE ONLY TWO GREEN-SKINNED MEN ON EARTH! HIS POWER, *TOO*, MUST STEM FROM A GAMMA EXPLOSION! WE WERE *DESTINED* TO BECOME ALLIES! MY SUPREME INTELLECT MUST COMBINE WITH HIS LIMITLESS STRENGTH!

WHEREVER THE *HULK* IS, *BANNER* IS ALWAYS NEAR AT HAND! IN SOME STRANGE WAY, BRUCE BANNER IS THE *KEY* TO THE HULK!

I'LL CONTACT MY TOP LIEUTENANT, THE *CHAMELEON!* HE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO STEAL MILITARY SECRETS FROM BANNER'S AERO-SPACE UNIT!

HE SHOULD KNOW OF THE SCIENTIST'S WHEREABOUTS!

SECONDS LATER...

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CONTACT *YOU*, LEADER! BANNER IS MISSING! HE IS REPORTED BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN! THE HIGH COMMAND BELIEVES HE MIGHT HAVE *DEFECTED!*

WITHOUT A WORD, THE EVIL GENIUS BREAKS TV CONTACT, HAVING LEARNED WHAT HE WISHED TO KNOW...

IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT, THE HULK MUST *ALSO* BE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, SOMEWHERE NEAR BANNER! THUS, I MUST TURN MY ATTENTION EASTWARD...!

I SHALL CONTACT THE WOULD-BE CONQUERORS WHO ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO THINK THAT THE LEADER WORKS ONLY FOR THEM!

AHH! COMRADE LEADER! WHAT HAVE YOU TO REPORT?

NOTHING, AT THIS TIME, COMMISSAR! I REQUIRE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN SCIENTIST, DR. BANNER!

AH YES--BANNER! A MOST INTERESTING CASE! YOU MIGHT CONSIDER HIM OUR "GUEST" AT THE MOMENT!

HE IS AT OUR WEAPONS TESTING CENTER NEAR THE SEA!

GOOD! THEN THAT IS WHERE I SHALL FIND THE *HULK*, AS WELL!

WHAT? HOW DID *YOU* KNOW?? IT IS OUR MOST CLOSELY GUARDED *SECRET!*

THERE CAN BE *NO* SECRETS FROM THE *LEADER!*

WAIT! DO NOT BREAK CONTACT! I MUST FIND OUT HOW YOU--ARROGANT DOG! NOBODY ELSE WOULD DARE TO TREAT ME SO! SOME DAY HE SHALL GO TOO FAR! WITH HIS SUPER-BRILLIANT BRAIN, HE COULD BE MORE OF A THREAT TO US THAN AN ARMY!

BUT, THE MAN KNOWN AS THE LEADER CAN WASTE NO TIME WITH MERE COMMUNIST COMMISSARS! HE HAS MORE CHALLENGING MATTERS TO CONSIDER...!

I HAVE REACHED A DECISION! I SHALL TAKE NO ACTION YET! SOONER OR LATER BANNER AND THE HULK WILL ESCAPE THE REDS--AND I CAN DEAL WITH THEM MORE EASILY WHEN THEY RETURN TO THESE SHORES!

I SHALL CONTENT MYSELF TO MERELY WAIT-- AND OBSERVE FUTURE DEVELOP-MENTS!

MEANTIME, RED SEARCH PLANES COMB THE WEAPONS TESTING AREA, IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO FIND THE INCREDIBLE HULK...

THERE IS NO TRACE OF HIM! HE HAS SIMPLY VANISHED!

IMPOSSIBLE! HE IS SO HUGE-- WITH GREEN SKIN --IN A FOREIGN LAND! THERE IS NO WAY FOR HIM TO ELUDE US!

BUT, THERE IS ONE WAY-- A WAY THAT NO RATIONAL MAN WOULD EVER DREAM OF! THE HULK HAS RETURNED TO HIS PERFECT HIDING PLACE ONCE MORE-- HE HAS RETURNED TO THE IDENTITY OF BRUCE BANNER, WHO IS JUST REGAINING CON-SCIOUSNESS...!

THIS IS ONE TIME I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF TO REMAIN AS THE HULK!

AT LEAST IN THAT FORM I'D HAVE LIMITLESS STRENGTH TO HELP ME!

BUT, WHAT CHANCE CAN I HAVE FOR SURVIVAL NOW--? I'M ALONE, DEFENSE-LESS, IN A HOSTILE LAND!

RED JETS! THEY MUST BE SEARCHING FOR THE HULK!

THEY'VE SIGHTED ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

THEY MUST HAVE ORDERS TO DESTROY ANYTHING THAT MOVES! AFTER THE HULK'S LAST RAMPAGE, THEY'RE TAKING NO CHANCES WITH ANYONE!

PWEEEOWW!

I CAN'T KEEP RUNNING MUCH LONGER! IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR ME!

IF ONLY I HAD BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR MY NAME! IF ONLY I COULD HAVE EXPLAINED TO BETTY! BUT NOW-- IT'S TOO LATE!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR *ANYTHING* -- EXCEPT TRYING TO DIE AS BRAVELY AS-- *WAIT!*

THAT MAN! THAT FACE! I *KNOW* HIM! BUT, FROM *WHERE? HOW??*

AND THEN, A FAINT VESTIGE OF THE *HULK'S* MEMORY STEALS INTO DR. BANNER'S SUBCONSCIOUS, AS HE RECALLS THE HEROIC EUROPEAN SCIENTIST WHO HAD DARED TO DEFY HIS RED MASTERS--

YES! *YES!* NOW I REMEMBER!

THUS UNLEASHED, THE FLOOD OF MEMORIES SURGES INTO THE TORMENTED FUGITIVE'S MIND-- MEMORIES OF THE DEAD MAN HAVING SAVED HIS OWN LIFE, WHILE HE WAS FIGHTING AS THE *HULK!*

HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR *MINE!* AND NOW HE'S *DEAD!* KILLED BY THE SAME MERCILESS ONES WHO ARE NOW PURSUING *ME!*

AND, AS A WAVE OF UNCONTROLLABLE *RAGE* SURGES IN BANNER'S BREAST, THE INCREDIBLE CHEMICAL CHANGE WITHIN HIS BODY BEGINS ANEW-- JUST AS THE GROUND IS ROCKED BY A THUNDEROUS ARTILLERY BLAST!

BA-ROOOOOM!

LIKE A LEAF IN A STORM, THE VALIANT SCIENTIST IS HURLED TOWARD A NEARBY STONE WALL--AND WHAT SEEMS TO BE HIS INEVITABLE DOOM!

BUT, IT IS *NOT* BRUCE BANNER WHO SMASHES INTO THE WALL WITH THE FORCE OF A PROJECTILE! INSTEAD, IT IS THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL TO WALK THE EARTH-- THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

NEVER HAS MAN NOR BEAST KNOWN SUCH RAGE, SUCH LIVID *FURY*, AS THAT WHICH NOW FILLS THE HEART AND MIND OF THE GREEN-SKINNED COLOSSUS...

NOW THE HULK STRIKES *BACK!*

LOOK! WE HAVE *FOUND* HIM!

DO NOT ALLOW HIM TO ESCAPE AGAIN! *STRAFE HIM AT WILL!*

PUNY INSECTS! THEY COME TO KILL *HULK!*

NONE CAN KILL HULK!

DID YOU SEE *THAT?!?!*

HE *JUMPED* TO SAFETY! AND NOW-- IT IS AS THOUGH *HE* ATTACKS *US!*

AND, THE RED PILOT'S STARTLED COMMENT SOON PROVES TO BE *TRUE!* LIKE A SCENE IN SOME FANTASTIC NIGHTMARE, THE RAMPAGING HUMAN BEHEMOTH CRIPPLES TWO OF THE PLANES AS EFFORTLESSLY AS YOU MIGHT SWAT A FLY!

WHOK!

CLAKK!

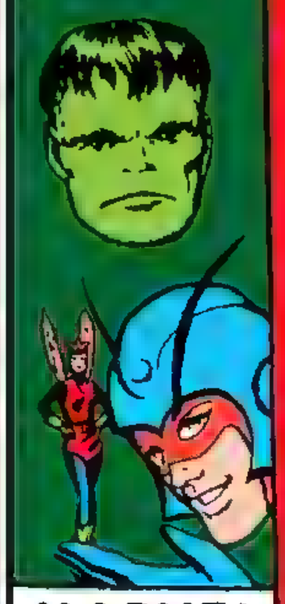
THEN, AS HE PLUMMETS BACK TO THE GROUND, HIS UNBLINKING EYES SEE THE ADVANCING COLUMN OF RED TANKS RUMBLING TOWARD THE AREA...

AND, HIS BURNING DESIRE FOR REVENGE--FOR PUNISHING THOSE WHO KILLED THE ONE WHO HAD BEFRIENDED HIM-- IS FANNED ANEW!

WHOOOM!

BUT, ALAS, EVERY TALE MUST BE CONCLUDED SOMEWHERE, AND WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF OURS! THUS, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE STRONGEST MORTAL TO BESTRIDE THIS PLANET...

AND, AS THIS CHAPTER DRAWS TO A CLOSE, NO ONE CAN FORETELL THE OUTCOME OF THE HULK'S *NEXT* BATTLE! FOR, IT WILL BE ONE LONE FIGURE AGAINST THE MASSED MIGHT OF AN ARMORED TASK FORCE! BUT, ONE LONE FIGURE WHOM THE WORLD KNOWS AND FEARS AS-- THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!* DON'T DARE MISS NEXT ISSUE'S TITANIC BATTLE--YOU KNOW HOW INSECURE YOUR ABSENCE MAKES US FEEL!



MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

67 MAY

"WHERE STRIDES THE BEHEMOTH!"

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

"THE HIDDEN MAN AND HIS RAYS OF DOOM!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"WHERE STRIDES THE BEHEMOTH"

LAST ISSUE, THE HULK FOUGHT FOR HIS LIFE, ALONE AND UNAIDED, IN AN IRON CURTAIN NATION! BUT, THAT FIGHT IS NOT YET ENDED--AS A MIGHTY ***TANK FORCE*** RUMBLES INTO SIGHT--ITS MISSION: ***DESTROY THE HULK!!***

TANKS!! COMING TO KILL HULK!! BUT HULK ***STRONGER!!***

IT'S ***TRUE!*** THE HULK ***DOES*** EXIST! BUT, NOT FOR LONG! WE WILL BLAST HIM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

SCRIPT BY **STAN LEE,** WHO CREATED THE HULK!
ART BY **STEVE DITKO,** WHO ADOPTED THE HULK!
INKING BY **FRANK RAY,** WHO FEARS THE HULK!
LETTERING BY **ART SIMEK,** WHO LOOKS LIKE THE HULK!

THEY KILLED FRIEND! KILLED MAN WHO HELPED HULK!* I MAKE THEM *PAY!*

THUS, LIKE A VENGEFUL, LUMBERING LEVIATHAN, THE GREEN-SKINNED POWERHOUSE LUNGES RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF THE HEAVILY-ARMED TANKS!

*AS SEEN IN *ASTONISH #66*-- STAN.

THIS WILL BE EASIER THAN WE EXPECTED! HE'S APPROACHING AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! LOWER YOUR SIGHTS! SWING THE GUN *DOWN!*

HE'S COMING *FASTER!* CAN'T MOVE TURRET INTO POSITION IN TIME! BUT, NO NEED TO *RUSH!* HE CAN'T ESCAPE!

BUT, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* IS NOT *TRYING* TO ESCAPE! INSTEAD, HE PERFORMS A FEAT OF RAW STRENGTH, SO MIND-STAGGERING THAT *NONE* COULD HAVE EXPECTED IT!

COMRADES! LOOK! HE--HE IS LIFTING THE ENTIRE TURRET-- *RIGHT OFF THE TANK!*

PACCCKK!

HAH! RUN! *RUN*-- WHILE *HULK* DESTROYS TANK! *EVERYONE* RUNS FROM *HULK! EVERYONE!*

IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE!* HE CANNOT BE *ALIVE!!* HE IS A *ROBOT!*

NO MATTER *WHAT* HE IS-- WE MUST ESCAPE BEFORE HE *SMASHES* US! HE IS A *DEMON!*

WHOMM!

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE SECOND TANK RUMBLES INTO VIEW--

KLANGGG!

LOOK, COMRADES! THE HULK MUST HAVE AN ANTI-TANK GUN!

WE MUST *DESTROY* HIM BEFORE HE CAN USE IT AGAINST *US!*

FIRE ROCKET ONE! OTHER ROCKET LAUNCHERS-- STAND BY!

THE RANGE IS TOO CLOSE! THE SHELL WILL OVERSHOOT THE MARK! BUT, NO MATTER-- THE SHOCK WAVE WILL FINISH HIM!

BUT, AS THE UNSUSPECTING REDS ARE ABOUT TO LEARN, IT TAKES MORE THAN A MERE EXPLOSIVE SHOCK WAVE TO KILL THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

GUNS! THEY TRY TO KILL HULK WITH GUNS!

PYYOOM!

MUST NOT GET SECOND CHANCE! MUST STOP THEM-- NOW!

ALL TANKS RIDE ON ROAD! EASY TARGETS FOR HULK!

SKRAKK!

THERE HE IS! BUT-- WHAT IS HE DOING?!

IT CANNOT BE! HE IS-- TEARING UP THE ROAD BENEATH US!!

HAHHH! COME CLOSER! CLOSER!

NOW!

FIRE! HURRY, YOU FOOLS --FIRE!

THOK!

WHUPP!

TOO LATE! THE ROAD RAISED US! WE CANNOT AIM AT HIM!

THEN, BY THE TIME THE SHAKEN TANKS GET THE RANGE, IT IS-- *TOO LATE!*

TANKS *STOPPED!* NOW HULK *ATTACKS!*

KA-POK!

THE *GUN*-- *ELEVATE THE GUN!!* N-NO--IT IS *TOO LATE!*

BROOM

CLANKKK!

MEN RUN! AFRAID! AFRAID OF *HULK!* BUT OTHERS STILL IN TANKS! MUST GET RID OF *THEM,* TOO! MUST SMASH *ALL!*

TWANNG!

WE *CAN'T* REMAIN INSIDE! HE'S TEARING THE TANKS APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS! *RUN!*

THE *OTHERS* WILL GET HIM! AS SOON AS THEIR GUNS CAN GET THE RANGE!

COME OUT OF TANK! COME OUT AND FACE *HULK! COME OUT!*

WITHIN SECONDS, HALF OF THE ONCE-PROUD TANK FORCE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED -- WITH MOST OF THE REMAINING VEHICLES ABANDONED! BUT, THERE ARE STILL SOME WHICH REMAIN...

THE *OTHERS* ARE COMING! THEY'RE *SURROUNDING* HIM! HE DOESN'T *SEE* THEM YET!

HE WORKED HIMSELF INTO THE CENTER OF A *TRAP!* HE CAN'T SURVIVE MUCH LONGER!

AND THEN, TURNING SLOWLY, THE HULK SEES...

ALL AROUND ME! NO PLACE TO RUN!

BUT, THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH, WHOSE POWER IS VIRTUALLY BEYOND MEASURE, STILL HAS ONE REMAINING RESOURCE--AS HE CLAMPS HIS MAMMOTH *HANDS* TOGETHER WITH A FORCE OF NEAR-NUCLEAR PROPORTIONS!

BUH-WHAMMM

WITH THAT, THE SHAKEN RED TROOPS, THEIR WILL TO FIGHT GONE, FLEE IN UNABASHED PANIC, LEAVING THE SOLITARY, MAMMOTH FORM OF THE *HULK* THE COMPLETE *MASTER* OF ALL HE SURVEYS!

RUN! *RUN!* RUN FROM *HULK!* FIGHT IS *OVER!* HULK HAS *WON!*

BUT THEN, THE CLOUDED, BEFOGGED BRAIN OF THE GREEN TITAN GROWS EVER MORE BEWILDERED, AS THE HULK SLOWLY FORGETS THE REASON HE HAD BEEN BATTLING THE ENEMY TROOPS...!

TAKE TO THE HILLS! *NOTHING* CAN STOP THE HULK!

OUR ENTIRE TANK FORCE -- DESTROYED BY *ONE MAN!* IT IS *UNTHINKABLE!* YET, WE SAW IT *HAPPEN!*

WHAT DOES HULK DO NEXT? WHY AM I *HERE?*

TRY AS HE MAY TO REMEMBER--TO CLEAR THE HAZE FROM HIS BRUTISH BRAIN--HIS BRAIN WHICH ONCE HAD BEEN AMONG THE KEENEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS ON EARTH--THE HULK ***CANNOT!***

STRANGE LAND! HULK ***LOST!*** MUST ***GO***-- FIND WAY HOME--!

AND THEN, THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES OF ALL TIME PROPEL THE TORMENTED CREATURE HIGH INTO THE AIR, ON THE FIRST STEP OF A NEW JOURNEY --A NEW, STILL MORE HAZARDOUS ADVENTURE...

LOOK! IT IS THE ***HULK*** AGAIN! HE IS WITHIN GUN RANGE!

NO! DON'T FIRE! LET HIM GO! NEXT TIME WE MAY NOT ESCAPE FROM HIM WITH OUR LIVES!

AND, AS THE HULK CONTINUES TO COVER VAST AREAS OF LAND WITH HIS INCREDIBLE, DISTANCE-SWALLOWING LEAPS, A RED JET PATROL SIGHTS THE AWESOME SPECTACLE...

HAVE SIGHTED ***HULK!*** MOVING TOWARD ***MONGOLIA!*** WHAT ARE ORDERS? SHALL WE ***ATTACK?***

NEGATIVE! NEGATIVE! DO NOT INTERCEPT! DO NOT ATTACK!

LET HIM LEAVE OUR COUNTRY AND BRING DESTRUCTION TO ***OTHER*** LANDS! DO NOT ATTACK!

FINALLY, HIS SMOULDERING RAGE NEARLY SPENT, HIS MIND DAZED AND CONFUSED, THE MUSCULAR GIANT COMES TO A HALT IN A LONELY, ISOLATED SECTION OF THE TOWERING HIMALAYAS...

MUST STOP! MUST THINK WHAT TO DO-- WHERE TO GO!

HULK LOST! NO FOOD-- NO FRIEND-- NO HOME!

HOME? WHERE IS HOME? THIS PLACE GOOD AS ANY! ***NO*** PLACE GOOD FOR HULK! --NO PLACE...!

AND THEN, A GLIMMER OF MEMORY SEEMS TO RETURN--FAINTLY--LIKE A DIMLY-REMEMBERED DREAM...

HULK ONCE HAD FRIEND--RICK--RICK! BOY--RAN AWAY!

RICK--GONE! NO MORE FRIEND! NOTHING! NOTHING FOR HULK--!

BUT, THE GAMMA-RAY-AFFECTED BRAIN OF THE GREEN-SKINNED CREATURE CANNOT RETAIN ANY THOUGHT FOR LONG--AND, WITHIN MINUTES, THE MEMORY LEAVES, AS THE TRAGEDY-RIDDEN FIGURE BEGINS TO SLUMBER...

THERE IS NOTHING FOR HULK--NOTHING BUT RUNNING--FIGHTING! NOTHING--

THEN, WITH SLEEP, COMES COMPLETE FORGETFULNESS, AS THE STORM WITHIN HIS BREAST STOPS RAGING, AND THE HULK CHANGES --BACK TO THE PERSON OF **BRUCE BANNER**...

THUS, IT IS IN HIS NORMAL IDENTITY THAT HE IS RUDELY AWAKENED, BY A HARSH, GUTTERAL VOICE, AND THE SOUND OF A RIFLE BEING COCKED...!

HE HAS NOTHING WORTH STEALING! HE IS USELESS TO US!

WHA--?? WHO *ARE* YOU?

SHOOT HIM, THEN! WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE WITH SUCH AS HE!

CLICK!

YOU SPEAK TO ***KANGA KHAN***, INFIDEL! I AM BANDIT CHIEFTON HERE! BUT, YOUR VOICE--YOU ARE ***AMERICAN!***

I'VE GOT TO THINK FAST! THEY'D SHOOT ME AS SOON AS LOOK AT ME!

AN AMERICAN--***HERE!*** THIS IS WONDROUS STRANGE, MY CHIEFTON!

LISTEN--I'LL MAKE YOU AN ***OFFER!*** TAKE ME TO THE NEAREST AMERICANS, AND YOU'LL BE REWARDED HANDSOMELY!

YOU TRY TO MAKE ***FOOL*** OF KANGA KHAN?!! YOU ARE ***POOR!*** LOOK AT ***RAGS*** YOU WEAR! WHY WOULD ANY PAY REWARD?

I'VE ***GOT*** TO CONVINCE THEM--OR ELSE, I'M ***FINISHED!***

BUT, MIGHTY ONE--HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT ***ALL*** AMERICANS ARE RICH BEYOND OUR POOR IMAGINATIONS?! IS IT NOT SO WRITTEN IN THE PAPERS OF THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT?

THE REASON MY CLOTHES ARE IN TATTERS IS THAT I HAVE BEEN ***LOST*** HERE! WITHOUT FOOD, OR WATER--OTHER BANDITS TOOK MY MONEY--BUT I HAVE MORE--I CAN ***GET*** IT--!

PERHAPS HE ESCAPED FROM THE LAND OF THE SOVIETS! THEY WOULD PAY US FOR HIS RETURN!

PERHAPS--BUT THE AMERICANS ARE MORE GENEROUS WITH THEIR WEALTH! ***THEY*** WOULD PAY MORE HANDSOMELY!

YOU GUARD HIM! IT WILL MEAN YOUR LIFE IF HE ESCAPES! I SHALL GET WORD TO THE AMERICANS AND LEARN WHAT THEY WILL PAY FOR HIM!

YOUR WISDOM IS THE WISDOM OF THE MOUNTAIN WOLF, MIGHTY KANGA KHAN!

HE'S LEAVING! BUT, IS HE GOING TO NOTIFY THE AMERICANS--OR THE REDS?? IF ONLY I KNEW?

AND YET, BY NOW I'M SURELY CONSIDERED A DESERTER BY GENERAL ROSS! HOW CAN I EVER PROVE I DIDN'T DEFECT TO THE COMMUNISTS WHEN I VANISHED FROM ASTRA ISLE??!*

*REFER TO ASTONISH #65--STAN.

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, AT A MILITARY INSTALLATION, STATESIDE...

MAJOR TALBOT, WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A CODED REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT DR. BRUCE BANNER IS THE PRISONER OF A MONGOLIAN BANDIT CHIEF NAMED KANGA KHAN! KHAN IS HOLDING HIM FOR RANSOM!

YOU'VE BEEN ON HIS CASE SINCE HE VANISHED FROM ASTRA ISLE DURING THE TEST OF HIS NUCLEAR ABSORBATRON!

YES SIR, I HAVE!

WELL, MAJOR, BRUCE BANNER IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE IGNORED! IF HE DID DESERT AND GO OVER TO THE REDS, WE WANT HIM BACK TO STAND TRIAL! AND, IF HE'S INNOCENT, WE WANT HIS TALENTS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE US AS AN ATOMIC EXPERT! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

OF COURSE, SIR! I'LL TAKE A JET TO THE ORIENT IMMEDIATELY! BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT HE IS A TRAITOR, SIR!

I DID NOT ASK YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, MAJOR! DISMISSED!

SOME TIME LATER, AT A PREARRANGED MEETING PLACE ON THE EASTERN TIP OF OUTER MONGOLIA...

YOU HAVE THE MONEY WITH YOU, AMERICAN?

WE'LL DISCUSS THAT LATER! FIRST, I MUST BE CERTAIN YOU REALLY HAVE BRUCE BANNER!

AND, AT THE HEAVILY-GUARDED CAMP OF KANGA KHAN...

I TOLD THEM MY NAME--BUT, IF THEY DO GET THE MESSAGE BACK TO AMERICA, HOW CAN I BE SURE ANYONE WILL BELIEVE--OR EVEN CARE??

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WORD! ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS ENDLESS WAITING!

BUT, STILL **OTHER** TROUBLES ARE SWIFTLY COMING BRUCE BANNER'S WAY! FOR, AS HE SITS SILENTLY IN THE CAMP OF KANGA KHAN, DIFFERENT EYES--HOSTILE EYES--WATCH EVERYTHING THAT TRANSPIRES BELOW...

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO ATTACK THE CAMP OF KANGA KHAN! THEY SUSPECT NOTHING!

SEE--KHAN HAS A NEW PRISONER! AN OCCIDENTAL! HE WILL BRING MUCH RANSOM!

AND, IF WE MOVE QUICKLY ENOUGH, IT IS **WE** WHO SHALL COLLECT THAT RANSOM!

WE MUST GO AND BRING BACK THE MAIN BODY OF OUR MEN! THEN WE SHALL ATTACK AND DESTROY OUR RIVAL KANGA KHAN, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AND, MINUTES AFTER THE TWO SILENT SPYING FIGURES HAVE LEFT...

HAH! YOU HAVE COME FOR THE AMERICAN, JUST AS I **KNEW** YOU WOULD! WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR HIS RANSOM?

NOT SO FAST, KHAN! FIRST I MUST **SEE** HIM-- AND SATISFY MYSELF THAT HE IS THE ONE YOU **CLAIM** HE IS!

YOUR REQUEST IS A SIMPLE ONE TO SATISFY! **THERE**-- YOU SEE MY CAPTIVE BEFORE YOU!

BANNER!! IT **IS** YOU!! THEN I'VE FOUND YOU AT **LAST!**

MAJOR TALBOT! YOU'RE NOT NUMBER ONE ON MY PIN-UP PARADE, BUT YOU'RE **STILL** A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

I WAS ALMOST AFRAID TO HOPE THAT ANYONE WOULD BE SENT! I THOUGHT--

SKIP IT, BANNER! I'M JUST INTERESTED IN TAKING YOU BACK TO STAND **TRIAL!** I'M **STILL** CONVINCED YOU'RE A RED AGENT!

WHAT HAPPENED? DID THE COMMIES DECIDE THEY WERE **THRU** WITH YOU, SO YOU CALLED YOUR UNCLE SAMMY FOR HELP ??

TALBOT, WERE YOU **BORN** A KNOTHEAD, OR DID YOU HAVE TO **WORK** AT IT?

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED, THE EVENING STILLNESS IS BROKEN BY THE SOUND OF **GUNFIRE!!**

DEATH TO KANGA KHAN!!

DESTROY KHAN! SEIZE HIS STOLEN TREASURES! ATTACK! **ATTACK!!**

CRACK!

IT IS **HAKUN GANTU,** AND HIS ACCURSED RAIDERS! WE ARE **OUTNUMBERED!!** FLEE TO THE HILLS!

C'MON, BANNER--THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SLIP OUT OF HERE!

I HOPE YOU KNOW THE **WAY,** TALBOT! WE'RE MILES FROM ANYWHERE!

DON'T TRY TO GET CUTE WITH **ME,** MISTER! YOU'RE NOT SLIPPING AWAY FROM ME! NO MATTER **WHERE** WE ARE, I'M NOT LOSING YOU AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, SUNNY JIM! HAVE IT YOUR WAY! I'LL STICK TO YOU LIKE **GLUE** FROM NOW ON--- OKAY?

NOW SHUT UP AND START **MOVING!** OUT THE BACK HERE-- LET'S **GO!**

ONLY ONE GUARD ON THIS NARROW MOUNTAIN ROAD! IF WE CAN GET PAST **HIM...!**

I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO GLEN TALBOT! HE'S PROBABLY THE WORST JUDGE OF CHARACTER IN THE WORLD, BUT HE'S A GOOD MAN TO BE WITH IN A PINCH!

SPWANG!

SPWANG!

STAY **BACK!!** THERE MUST BE OTHERS BEHIND THE NEXT LEDGE! WE'LL HAVE TO FIND **ANOTHER** WAY TO DESCEND!

I **WARNED** YOU NOT TO RUSH OUT SO FAST! THEY KNOW THIS TERRAIN--WE **DON'T!**

LOOK, BANNER--I'M A **SOLDIER!** I'M READY TO GIVE MY **LIFE** FOR THE COUNTRY I SERVE--- FOR THE LAND I LOVE! **YOU** WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT--BUT--- **WHA--??** THE **LEDGE!** IT'S **FALLING!!**

I'M AFRAID YOU JINXED US WITH THAT LITTLE SPEECH OF YOURS, TALBOT! IT SEEMS WE'RE **BOTH** ABOUT TO GIVE OUR LIVES...!

AND RIGHT NOW--FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH--I WANT TO TELL YOU --I'M **NOT** A RED SPY --I'M AS LOYAL AS YOU!

BUT, THOSE FINAL DESPERATE WORDS OF BRUCE BANNER ARE LOST IN THE DEAFENING WHINE OF THE ONRUSHING WIND AS BOTH MEN PLUMMET TOWARDS THE ABYSS WHICH AWAITS THEM HUNDREDS OF YARDS BELOW--!

WE WISH TO THANK STEVE DITKO FOR HELPING THE HULK TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS OF GLORY WITH HIS MASTERFUL ARTWORK IN THESE PAST ISSUES! AND, BEGINNING NEXT MONTH, **JACK KIRBY** RETURNS TO BRING YOU THE MOST BREATH-TAKING INSTALLMENT YET OF THE WORLD'S FIRST ILLO-DRAMA CLIFF-HANGER--- THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE INCREDIBLE **HULK!**

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

68 JUNE

"PERIL FROM THE PAST!"

"BACK FROM THE DEAD!"

MAJOR TALBOT

THE LEADER

BRUCE BANNER

RICK JONES

GENERAL ROSS

BETTY ROSS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"BACK FROM THE DEAD!"

FLEEING FROM BLOODTHIRSTY BANDITS, BRUCE BANNER AND MAJOR GLEN TALBOT FALL FROM A HIGH CLIFF IN EASTERN MONGOLIA--PLUNGING TOWARDS CERTAIN DOOM! BUT, THE SHOCK OF THE FALL CAUSES THE DESPERATE BANNER TO UNDERGO THE MOST SPECTACULAR CHANGE EVER RECORDED, AS HE ONCE AGAIN BECOMES--THE *HULK!*

STORY AND ART BY MARVEL'S MODERN MASTERS:
STAN LEE *and* JACK KIRBY

INKING:
MICKEY DEMEO

LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK

DIRECTLY ABOVE THE SPOT WHERE THE *HULK* HAS FOUND A HANDHOLD FOR HIMSELF, THE HURTLING FIGURE OF GLEN TALBOT ABRUPTLY LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS... AS HE BLACKS OUT FROM THE FURY OF THE FALL--!

UHHHH--!

THUS, THE AMERICAN SECURITY OFFICER IS UNAWARE THAT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL ARM ON EARTH REACHES OUT WITH A GRIP OF STEEL...

MAN FALLING!! HULK WILL CATCH--!

UNCOMPREHENDINGLY, THE BRUTAL EYES STUDY GLEN TALBOT--THE CLOUDED BRAIN TRYING VAINLY TO REMEMBER WHO HE IS--OR WHY THEY'RE HERE!

SPEAK!! SPEAK TO HULK--!

BUT, RECEIVING NO REPLY, THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH TURNS SAVAGELY AWAY...

MUST *GO!!* RETURN HOME--!

LIKE A PROJECTILE, FIRED INTO THE AIR, THE HULK'S MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES PROPEL HIM UPWARD--HIGH OVER THE NEAREST PEAK!

HOME! MUST GO *HOME!*

NEVER HAS MORTAL MAN BEHELD SUCH AS THAT WHICH YOU ARE NOW WITNESSING! FOR, NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A LIVING BEING SUCH AS--THE *HULK!*

TIME MEANS NOTHING TO THE INCREDIBLE LEVIATHAN AS HE HEADS WEST, IN EVER LONGER, EVER HIGHER LEAPS...

EVEN THE BROAD PACIFIC ITSELF POSES NO PROBLEM, AS HE LEAPS FROM ISLE TO ISLE, FROM PASSING PLANE TO PASSING PLANE, NEVER STOPPING, NEVER TIRING--!

AND, BACK IN AMERICA, THE ONLY *OTHER* GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN ON EARTH IS ENGAGED IN A PROJECT OF HIS OWN...

EVER SINCE MY INTELLIGENCE WAS MULTIPLIED A HUNDRED-FOLD BY THAT GAMMA-RAY ACCIDENT, THERE IS *NOTHING* WHICH I, THE *LEADER*, CANNOT ACCOMPLISH!

BRUCE BANNER'S GREATEST INVENTION, THE *ABSORBATRON*, IS STILL STANDING ON ASTRA ISLE--AND THIS NEW PLAN OF MINE WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO *STEAL* IT, DESPITE ANYTHING ANYONE CAN DO!

I HAVE REDUCED MY INDESTRUCTIBLE *HUMANOIDS* TO THE SIZE OF LIVING *CELLS*, VISIBLE ONLY UNDER MY MICROSCOPE! BUT, THEY SHALL NOT *REMAIN* SO...

ONCE I LAND THEM ON ASTRA ISLE, AT A RADIO-ACTIVATED IMPULSE FROM ME, THEY'LL GROW TO *LIFE-SIZE*, TAKING OVER THE ISLAND WITH EASE!

THEN I, THE *LEADER*, SHALL TAKE POSSESSION OF THE ABSORBATRON, THE ONLY DEVICE ON EARTH THAT CAN MAKE AN *H-BOMB* HARMLESS!

MEANWHILE, THE *HULK* REACHES A MISSILE BASE IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST--THE BASE WHICH THE SMALL PART OF HIM THAT IS STILL **BRUCE BANNER** WANTS TO RETURN TO--!

BANNER'S HOME--NEARBY! HULK WILL BE *SAFE* THERE!

BANNER NOT HERE! *NOBODY* HERE! GOOD! HULK WILL *REST!*

NOTE: THE HULK HAS DIFFICULTY REMEMBERING THAT HE AND BRUCE BANNER ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

SLOWLY, HE SINKS HIS MASSIVE FRAME ONTO THE COUCH, AS HIS HEAVY EYELIDS CLOSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HOURS...

AND, AS HE BEGINS TO SLEEP, HIS HEARTBEAT SLOWS DOWN, HIS BLOOD PRESSURE RETURNS TO NORMAL, AND...

ONCE AGAIN, THE INCREDIBLE CHEMICAL REACTION OF HIS BODY BEGINS TO OCCUR, UNTIL AT LAST, IN PLACE OF THE **HULK**, WE FIND--!

IT'S *HIM!* IT'S *BRUCE BANNER!*

WAKE UP, YOU TRAITOR! YOU'RE UNDER *ARREST!*

GENERAL ROSS! BUT, WHERE--HOW--??

OH, *BRUCE!* YOU'RE *BACK!* I *KNEW* YOU'D COME BACK!

MP

1

THEY THINK YOU *DESERTED*--WENT OVER TO THE *REDS!* PROVE YOU DIDN'T, BRUCE--YOU *HAVE* TO PROVE IT!

I-I'M AFRAID I *CAN'T!*

YOU WON'T ESCAPE US *AGAIN,* BANNER! *TAKE HIM,* MEN!

4

DAYS LATER, HAVING BEEN RESCUED IN THE ORIENT BY THE AIR FORCE, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT IS GRANTED A SPECIAL AUDIENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C....

I TELL YOU, SIR, BANNER *COULDN'T* HAVE ESCAPED WITHOUT THE *HULK'S* HELP! I *KNOW* THAT THEY'RE IN LEAGUE -- JUST AS I KNOW THAT HE *HAS* TO BE A RED SPY!

LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, MAJOR! LET US *REASON* TOGETHER!

ONLY THE BOY NAMED *RICK JONES* AND I KNOW THE SECRET OF THE *HULK!* I MUST NOT BETRAY THAT SECRET-- BUT I CAN ALLOW NO HARM TO COME TO BANNER!

BANNER IS BEING HELD PRISONER AT THE MISSILE BASE NOW, SIR! BUT THE *HULK* MAY RESCUE HIM AT ANY MINUTE!

EXCUSE ME, MAJOR!

RING RING

IT IS? I SEE! THANK YOU!

MAJOR, THE *ABSORBATRON* IS AGAIN READY FOR TESTING, ON ASTRA ISLE! YOU AND DR. BANNER WILL CONDUCT THE TEST...

BUT, SIR--!

THAT'S ALL, MAJOR! GOOD DAY!

BUT, ALTHOUGH NONE SUSPECT IT AT THE MOMENT, THERE WILL BE *OTHERS* ON ASTRA ISLE FOR THE FATEFUL TEST...

EVERYTHING IS READY! I SHALL LEAVE AT *ONCE!*

I'LL SPRAY MY MICROSCOPIC-SIZED HUMANOIDS OVER THE ISLE IN SECONDS! THERE IS NO ONE TO STOP ME! THE ISLE IS *DESERTED!*

HERE COMES THE TASK FORCE *NOW!* I'M JUST IN TIME!

BUT, BY THE TIME THEY'VE LANDED, I'LL HAVE SOWN MY SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION AND BE SAFELY OUT OF THEIR REACH!

THERE! IT'S *DONE!*

ALL THAT REMAINS FOR ME IS TO HOVER ABOVE AND SEND OUT THE SIGNAL WHICH WILL CAUSE THE HUMANOIDS TO GROW TO NORMAL SIZE! THEN, THE ABSORBATRON WILL BE *MINE!*

MEANWHILE, IN A MILITARY COMPOUND IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST...

DOC, EVEN THOUGH I *KNOW* ABOUT YOUR OTHER IDENTITY, THAT *STILL* DOESN'T MEAN THE MAJOR IS WRONG!

DAILY-I POST

ARMY HOLDS BRUCE BANNER AS COMMUNIST AGENT--

MAJOR TALBOT CLAIMS PROOF THAT BANNER IS RED SPY

HOW CAN ANYONE BE SURE YOU'RE *NOT* REALLY A SPY??

RICK, DID YOU LEAVE THE *AVENGERS* AND TRAVEL ALL THIS DISTANCE JUST TO TELL ME THAT *YOU'RE* BEGINNING TO DOUBT MY LOYALTY, TOO??

GOSH, NO, DOC! IT'S JUST THAT MAJOR TALBOT SEEMS SO *SURE*-- AND, NOBODY EVER *DOES* KNOW WHERE YOU DISAPPEAR TO ALL THE TIME!

WELL, WELL, BANNER! I SEE YOU HAVE A *VISITOR!*

GLEN TALBOT!

HI, MAJOR!

YOU SEE? I *ESCAPED* FROM THAT FALL IN TIBET--EVEN THOUGH *YOU* LEFT ME FOR DEAD!

YOU SAY THAT AS THOUGH YOU THINK I TRIED TO *KILL* YOU! YOU *FOOL*, CAN'T YOU SEE I'M NOT A KILLER--NOT A SPY!!

EASY, DOC! DON'T GET YOURSELF EXCITED!

WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE?

IT'S OKAY, GUARD! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

DIDJA *FORGET*? WHEN YOU GET EXCITED, YOU TURN INTO--*HIM!*

WHY MUST I BE *HOUNDED* BY THOSE I TRY TO *HELP*??!

GET *OUT* OF HERE, *FAST!* I FEEL THE *CHANGE* COMING ON!

NO, QUICK, TAKE A TRANQUILIZER, BEFORE THE *DOC* COMES!

ON YOUR *FEET*, BANNER! I'M HERE TO *FREE* YOU, THRU NO CHOICE OF *MINE!*

FREE ME?!

MP

PRETTY *SMART* OF YOU, WASN'T IT, BANNER-- NOT TELLING ANY-ONE HOW TO OPERATE YOUR ABSORBATRON, SO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO FREE *YOU* WHEN WE HAVE A TEST!

YOU *HEARD* ME, MISTER! GET YOUR GEAR! WE'RE HEADING BACK FOR ASTRA ISLE!

AND SO...

THE ISLAND HAS BEEN *CLEARED*, BANNER! IT'LL JUST BE YOU AND ME AND THE ABSORBATRON!

WHAT CAN THIS POWDERY SUBSTANCE BE DOING *HERE*??

DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS, MISTER! I'M JUST *LOOKING* FOR A CHANCE TO SLAP YOU BACK IN THAT CELL!

THEN, AS THE TWO MEN ENTER THE SUBTERRANEAN, LEAD-LINED SHELTER...

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!

BUT, NO SOONER DO THEY TIGHTLY SEAL THEM-SELVES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLE, THAN THE "POWDERY SUBSTANCE" BEGINS TO EXPAND, AND GROW--AND GROW--!

UNTIL...

GO, MY LIFELESS SLAVES! SEIZE THE ABSORBATRON BEFORE ANY TROOPS CAN BE LANDED ON THE ISLE! GO!

MAJOR! WHAT'S ALL THAT COMMOTION UP THERE? IT SOUNDS LIKE A RIOT!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE ISLAND IS COMPLETELY DESERTED! NO ONE COULD HAVE LANDED SO QUICKLY! I'LL GO UP AND SEE--!

YOU STAY WHERE YOU ARE, BANNER! I DON'T AIM TO LOSE YOU AGAIN!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES HIS HEAD POP OUT ABOVE THE CHAMBER, THEN...

WHA-WHAT'S THIS?? FROM WHERE--? HOW??

THERE WAS ONE BELOW! SEIZE HIM, MY LOYAL VASSALS!

WITH A STEELY, DETERMINED GLEAM IN HIS EYE, THE VALIANT MAJOR LASHES OUT, REFUSING TO SURRENDER...

WHOEVER YOU ARE-- WHATEVER YOU ARE--YOU WON'T GET THE ABSORBATRON!

BUT, RAW COURAGE ALONE IS RARELY A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUPERIOR NUMBERS AND GREATER POWER... AND SO, SCANT SECONDS LATER...

WELL DONE, MY MINDLESS ONES! BUT NOW, SEARCH EVERYWHERE! THERE MAY BE MORE IN HIDING!

IT'S DR. BANNER, THE INVENTOR! CAPTURE HIM, OR DESTROY HIM! BUT, HE MUSTN'T GET AWAY!

HUMANOIDS -- ATTACKING ME!

ONLY A FEW ARE BOTHERING WITH ME! THE OTHERS ARE RUSHING FOR THE ABSORBATRON!! I CAN'T LET THEM GET TO IT!

AND, AS HE STRUGGLES, BANNER'S PULSE RATE CHANGES AGAIN...

FASTER AND FASTER GOES HIS HEARTBEAT, HIGHER AND HIGHER GOES HIS BLOOD PRESSURE--

UNTIL--!

NOBODY ATTACKS HULK!!

WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! I'VE BEEN **WAITING** TO FIND THE ONLY OTHER GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN ON EARTH, SO WE COULD BECOME ***ALLIES!***

THE TWO ***NEAREST*** HIM, RELEASE YOUR GAS VAPORS! THAT'S IT! ***THAT'S IT!***

NOT BEING TRULY HUMAN, THE GAS HAS NO EFFECT ON THE STRUGGLING HUMANOIDS, BUT-- AS THE HULK INHALES GREAT QUANTITIES OF IT TO FEED HIS MIGHTY LUNGS...

GETTING ***TIRED!!*** TIRED OF FIGHTING! WANT TO ***SLEEP!***

...SLEEP....!

I'VE ***SUCCEEDED*** BEYOND MY WILDEST HOPES! MY HUMANOIDS WILL SOON DELIVER THE ***ABSORBATRON*** TO ME-- AND AT LAST THE ***HULK*** IS MINE, TOO!

WITH THOSE TRIUMPHANT WORDS, THE ***LEADER*** HEADS BACK TO ASTRA ISLE, WHERE ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF ALL IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE! AND WE'LL THRILL TO IT TOGETHER NEXT ISH! ***'NUFF SAID!***

GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

69 JULY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

SEE OL' GREEN SKIN "TRAPPED IN THE LAIR OF THE LEADER!"

AS FOR HIGH-POCKETS, FIND OUT WHY HE'S WONDERING...

"OH WASP, WHERE IS THY STING?"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

TRAPPED IN THE LAIR OF THE LEADER!

HE'S MY *PRISONER* AT LAST! BRING HIM TO MY SHIP, MINDLESS ONES!

TRYING TO KEEP HIS GREATEST INVENTION, THE ATOMIC-PROOF *ABSORBATRON*, FROM FALLING INTO THE EVIL HANDS OF *THE LEADER*, BRUCE BANNER AGAIN BECAME THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*, ONLY TO BE SUBDUED BY A POTENT *GAS ATTACK!* NOW, YOU KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT IT AS *WE* DO, SO LET'S ALL CONTINUE THE HULK'S HARROWING ODYSSEY TOGETHER...

HULKING STORY BY.....STAN LEE
HULKSOME ART BY.....JACK KIRBY
HULKISH INKING BY...MICKEY DEMEO
HULKABLE LETTERING BY..ART SIMEK

I'VE WAITED *MONTHS* FOR THIS MOMENT! THIS IS MY GREATEST TRIUMPH! I'VE FINALLY CAPTURED THE ONLY *OTHER* GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN TO WALK THE EARTH! HE, *TOO*, MUST BE THE VICTIM OF A FREAK GAMMA-RAY EXPLOSION, AS I WAS!

THE POWERFUL GAMMA-RAYS INCREASED THE SIZE OF MY *BRAIN*, MAKING ME THE GREATEST INTELLECT IN THE WORLD! BUT, THEY SEEM TO HAVE AFFECTED *HIM* DIFFERENTLY-- THEY'VE MADE *HIM* THE *STRONGEST* OF LIVING MORTALS!

IT WAS *FATE* THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER! FOR, WITH MY BRAINS AND HIS STRENGTH, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH *ANYTHING!* ALL OF MANKIND WILL SOON KNEEL AT OUR FEET!

AS FOR THE *REST* OF YOU-- REMOVE THE *ABSORBATRON!* IT IS THE ONLY DEFENSE WEAPON IN EXISTENCE WHICH CAN ABSORB THE POWER OF AN ATOM BOMB, MAKING ITS OWNER *SAFE* FROM ANY ATOMIC ATTACK!

ONCE IT IS *MINE*, NO NATION ON EARTH WILL BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO THREATEN ME!

BUT, AS THE EVIL GENIUS WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE *LEADER* PROCEEDS WITH HIS PLAN, HIS ACTIONS ARE SEEN BY SHARP-EYED OBERVERS OF THE NAVY TASK FORCE WHICH IS PREPARING TO TEST THE ABSORBATRON...!

SIGNAL THE BRIDGE! THERE ARE STRANGE FIGURES MOVING ON ASTRA ISLE!

HALT THE COUNTDOWN! SOMETHING HAS GONE *WRONG!*

I *SEE* THEM, ADMIRAL! DOZENS OF FIGURES SCURRYING ABOUT ON THE ISLE!

THEY LOOK LIKE SOME FORM OF *ROBOTS!*

FANTASTIC AS IT MAY SEEM, THE ABSORBATRON MIGHT BE IN DANGER! WE CAN'T PROCEED UNTIL WE'VE CHECKED IT OUT THOROUGHLY!

DISPATCH A *LANDING PARTY* AT ONCE! FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE-- AND HOW THEY *GOT* THERE!

AYE AYE, SIR!

BUT, BEFORE THE LANDING PARTY CAN REACH ITS GOAL...

YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE, MY HUMANOIDS! I NEED YOU NO LONGER!

AND SO, I REMOVE EVERY TRACE, EVERY VESTIGE OF YOU, WITH MY SPECIAL ACID-GAS COMPOUND...!

WITHIN SECONDS, IT WILL BE AS THOUGH YOU HAVE NEVER EXISTED! NONE SHALL EVER BE ABLE TO TRACE ME THRU YOU!

SO, FAREWELL, MINDLESS ONES! I RETURN YOU TO THE NOTHINGNESS FROM WHENCE I CREATED YOU!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE GREEN-SKINNED SUPER-INTELLECT ENTERS HIS WAITING SHIP AND STREAKS INTO THE SUB-STRATOSPHERE... TOWING THE ABSORBATRON AND THE STILL-SLEEPING HULK AFTER HIM ON THE WAVES OF A MAGNETIC ATTRACTOR-BEAM!

WHILE, SECONDS LATER...

KEEP SEARCHING! WE'RE **BOUND** TO FIND **SOME** CLUE--!

HOLD IT! I HEAR SOMETHING-- BEHIND THIS PASSAGEWAY--!

MAJOR TALBOT! WHAT **HAPPENED,** SIR? WHERE'S DR. BANNER?

HE'S **GONE!** HE ESCAPED FROM ME **AGAIN!** BUT I'LL FIND HIM! **THIS** TIME I'LL FIND HIM!

I'M AFRAID *NOT*, MAJOR! WE DETECTED AN AIR SHIP OF SOME SORT LEAVING THE ISLE, TOWING THE ABSORBATRON AFTER IT!

WE BELIEVE THAT *BANNER* WAS PILOTING THAT SHIP!

THE *ABSORBATRON*?? HE GOT THE ABSORBATRON?!! OH, NO!! *NO*!!

IT'S *GONE*! COMPLETELY DISMANTLED FROM ITS BASE! BUT, HOW DID HE *DO* IT?? HE'S ONLY *ONE MAN*! HE *COULDN'T* HAVE DONE IT ALONE!!

WE ALSO SAW THE *HULK* FOLLOWING THE AIR SHIP, SIR!

THE *HULK*! THAT'S THE ANSWER! I ALWAYS *KNEW* THEY WORKED TOGETHER! ONE IS NEVER FAR FROM THE OTHER!

THEY WON'T GET AWAY, SIR! OUR *RADAR* IS CERTAIN TO HAVE TRACKED THEIR LINE OF FLIGHT!

MEANWHILE, ATOP A LONELY MESA IN THE SOUTHWEST...

...A SILENT AIR SHIP DESCENDS THRU A SECRET CAMOUFLAGED OPENING...

SAFE AT LAST! *NO ONE* WILL FIND ME NOW!

WITHIN THAT AIRTIGHT CHAMBER, I CAN REGULATE THE AMOUNT OF GAS NEEDED TO *KEEP* THE HULK IN A STATE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

THUS, I CAN STUDY HIM FULLY--AT MY LEISURE!

MY RECORDING INSTRUMENTS WILL TRANSCRIBE HIS HEARTBEAT, BLOOD PRESSURE, ENCEPHALLOGRAPHIC PATTERNS OF HIS BRAIN--! *NOTHING* SHALL BE HIDDEN FROM ME!

WHEN MY TESTS ARE DONE, I SHALL KNOW *EVERYTHING* ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*!

AMAZING! HIS SKIN IS SO TOUGH--SO ALMOST IMPENETRABLE, THAT MY DEVICES DON'T REGISTER!

BUT, THAT WON'T DELAY ME FOR LONG! I'LL MERELY GO TWO LEVELS BELOW TO MY APPARATUS LAB, AND GET SOME NEW, STRONGER COMPONENT PARTS!

BUT, AS THE LEADER LEAVES THE CHAMBER, A ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE SIDE-EFFECT OF HIS SLEEP GAS OCCURS--THE ONE THING HE COULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED...

THE HULK BEGINS TO AWAKEN!

FOR, THE SAME GAS WHICH KEPT THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH ASLEEP AND HELPLESS, ALSO SLOWLY TRANSFORMED HIS BODY CHEMISTRY, SLOWING DOWN HIS HEARTBEAT, UNTIL...

--HE WHO HAD BEEN THE HULK FINALLY BECOMES THE BRILLIANT, TORTURED BRUCE BANNER ONCE AGAIN!

A BRUCE BANNER WHO AWAKENS WITH THE MEMORY OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED CLEARLY IMPRESSED UPON HIS BRAIN!

I'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SPY WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE LEADER!

HE DOESN'T YET SUSPECT THAT THE HULK IS ALSO BRUCE BANNER!

LUCKILY, THE SLEEP GAS WHICH FELLED THE HULK IS ACTING AS AN ANTI-TOXIN IN THE BODY OF BRUCE BANNER, SO IT NO LONGER AFFECTS ME!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST! HE'S ALSO CAPTURED THE ABSORBATRON! IN HIS HANDS, IT'S A THREAT TO ALL OF MANKIND!

I'LL MODIFY THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT HERE IN THE LAB AND USE IT TO SEND OUT A SIGNAL IN MORSE CODE--A SIGNAL OF WARNING!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, COMMANDER OF ONE OF OUR LARGEST SOUTHWESTERN MISSILE BASES...

I'LL FIND THAT ABSORBATRON IF I HAVE TO SCOUR THE DESERT INCH BY INCH! AND, WHEN I DO--!

NAVAL RADAR TRACKED IT TO THIS VERY AREA, GENERAL! CAN IT BE MERE COINCIDENCE, OR--??

I DON'T GIVE A TINKER'S HOOT IF IT'S COINCIDENCE OR NOT! I WANT THAT DEVICE! I WANT THE HULK! I WANT BANNER!

HELLO! HELLO! TELL ALL UNITS TO KEEP SEARCHING NIGHT AND DAY! REPORT TO ME HOURLY! I WANT ACTION!!

BANNER IS BEHIND ALL THIS! HE'S THE ONE TO BLAME!

AND, AS THEY TALK, NEITHER MAN NOTICES A TEEN-AGE FIGURE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW-- THE FIGURE OF RICK JONES!

THE HULK NEEDS ME NOW! MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!

BANNER WON'T ESCAPE! I'VE GIVEN ORDERS-- THAT TRAITOR WILL BE SHOT ON SIGHT!

LET'S JUST HOPE WE CAN FIND HIM!

SECONDS LATER, THE FRANTIC YOUTH SPEEDS TOWARD A HIDDEN CAVE--WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN USED TO HOUSE-- THE HULK!

I WON'T BELIEVE THAT DR. BANNER IS A TRAITOR! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IF HE'S IN TROUBLE-- IF HE'S TURNED BACK TO THE HULK-- MAYBE HE'S RETURNED TO OUR CAVE--!

HE SAVED MY LIFE IN THIS VERY DESERT MONTHS AGO*! I CAN'T DESERT HIM NOW, WHEN HE NEEDS ME THE MOST!

EVEN IF IT MEANS LEAVING CAPTAIN AMERICA-- LEAVING THE AVENGERS-- I'VE GOT TO STAND BY THE HULK!

* THE INCREDIBLE HULK #1-- UNFORTUNATELY NOW OUT-OF-PRINT --- STAN.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM! BUT-- WAIT!! SIGNALS! MORSE CODE-- FROM THE RADIO!

HE'S BROADCASTING AN S.O.S.! BUT-- THE ARMY WILL PICK IT UP, TOO! AND THEY'VE ORDERS TO SHOOT HIM ON SIGHT!

I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THE TROOPS-- FIND A WAY TO SAVE HIM!

WITHIN THE HOUR, THE ENTIRE MISSILE COMMAND IS ALERTED! USING THE LATEST ELECTRONIC TRACKING METHODS, SECURITY OFFICER GLEN TALBOT PINPOINTS THE LOCATION OF BRUCE BANNER'S RADIO SIGNAL AS AN ARMORED BATTALION RACES TO THE SITE...!

THE SIGNALS ARE GETTING *STRONGER*, SIR! WE'RE NOT FAR FROM OUR OBJECTIVE!

YOU'D BETTER BE *RIGHT* THIS TIME, MAJOR! IF WE LOSE HIM AGAIN, YOU CAN KISS THOSE OAK LEAFS OF YOURS *GOODBYE!* DO YOU *READ* ME, TALBOT??

WE WON'T LOSE HIM *THIS* TIME, GENERAL!

THE SIGNALS ARE COMING FROM THAT MESA--DIRECTLY *AHEAD!*

HAVE THE SITE *SURROUNDED!* SHOOT ANYTHING THAT *MOVES!* I DON'T WANT A *GRASSHOPPER* GETTING PAST US, *UNDERSTAND ??!*

AND, INSIDE THE MESA---

THE TABLE IS *EMPTY!* THE HULK MUST HAVE *AWAKENED!*

BUT, HE MUST STILL BE IN THERE SOMEWHERE! HE *CAN'T* HAVE ESCAPED!

I'LL PUMP IN A *DOUBLE* QUANTITY OF SLEEP GAS! WHEREVER HE'S HIDING, IT WILL REACH HIM AND RENDER HIM *HELPLESS* AGAIN!

BUT, AGAIN THE GREEN-SKINNED EVIL GENIUS MAKES HIS ONE FATAL MISTAKE! NOT REALIZING THAT THE *HULK* IS, IN REALITY, *TWO* INDIVIDUALS, HE CANNOT SUSPECT THAT THE DOUBLE QUANTITY OF GAS IS CHANGING BRUCE BANNER'S BODY CHEMISTRY ONCE MORE--

INSTEAD OF PUTTING ME TO *SLEEP*, IT'S CAUSING ME TO *CHANGE* AGAIN--!

AND THEN...

WHOOOM!

HE'S FREE! THE GAS DIDN'T AFFECT HIM!

MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO REACH MY MOLECULE RAY!

EVEN BATTLESHIP STEEL DOORS CAN'T KEEP HIM OUT!! IF HE GETS NEAR THE ABSORBATRON HE MIGHT DESTROY IT! HE COULD RUIN EVERY-THING!

NO ONE CAPTURES HULK! NO ONE!

STAY BACK, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE!! I COULD HAVE SHARED THE WORLD WITH YOU!! DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU! NO! NO-- STAY BACK!!

FOOL! YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! EVEN YOUR INCALCULABLE STRENGTH CANNOT SURVIVE A DIRECT HIT BY THE POWER OF A TRILLION CONCENTRATED MOLECULES!!

BLAST IT! I NEVER THOUGHT HE COULD MOVE SO FAST! I ONLY GRAZED HIM!

BUT, ALTHOUGH PAINFULLY WOUNDED BY THE INDESCRIBABLE IMPACT, SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN HIS DULL, CLOUDED BRAIN URGES THE HULK TO MAKE ONE FINAL, SUPREME EFFORT--

MUST DESTROY BANNER'S MACHINE!!

NO MATTER WHAT-- LEADER MUST NEVER GET MACHINE!

HURLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL ARM ON EARTH, THE STEEL BAR STRIKES THE ABSORBATRON WITH THE FORCE OF A *MISSILE*, AND THEN...

HE *BEAT* ME! HIS SAVAGE, UNCONTROLLABLE, BESTIAL STRENGTH UNDID ALL MY PLANNING--ALL MY BRILLIANT MANEUVERING!!

BUT I CAN STILL SAVE MYSELF! I STILL HAVE TIME TO MAKE IT TO MY ESCAPE TUNNEL, UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE...!

SECONDS LATER, A SPEEDY ROCKET SLED BRINGS THE EVIL *LEADER* TO A WAITING PLANE MILES AWAY...

WHY WOULD THE BRAINLESS *HULK* BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO KEEP ME FROM GETTING MY HANDS ON A MACHINE WHICH HE COULD NEVER HOPE TO FATHOM!

THERE IS A GREAT *MYSTERY* SURROUNDING THE GREEN GOLIATH--A SECRET HE POSSESSES WHICH EVEN *I* CANNOT UNRAVEL! BUT, I SHALL NEVER STOP *TRYING*!! SOONER OR LATER HE MUST *JOIN* ME--OR HE MUST *DIE*!

AT THAT MOMENT, GENERAL ROSS AND HIS MEN, GUIDED BY THE SOUND OF THE EXPLOSION, ENTER THE STILL-SMOULDERING CHAMBER, ONLY TO FIND...

THE *ABSORBATRON*!! IT'S BEEN *DESTROYED*!

WHOEVER *DID* THIS WILL PAY FOR IT--AND HE'LL PAY *DEARLY*!!

AND, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE STRANGE TUNNEL...

HULK *HAD* TO DESTROY MACHINE--TO *PROTECT* IT--FROM *HIM*! NO OTHER WAY!

THAT *FACE*!! IT--IT'S THE GREEN *MONSTER*!

HE'S TURNING--RUNNING AWAY! I'VE GOT TO *STOP* HIM! *HALT*! HALT--OR *I'LL SHOOT*!

PAKKA PAKKA

ALL THE SMOKE--AND FLAME! CAN'T TELL IF I HIT HIM! HE'S *GONE*!

AND, A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, WE FIND...

JONES!! HOW DID YOU GET HERE, BOY! EVEN WITH YOUR AVENGERS' I.D. CARD, YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO BARGE IN AND--

I HAD TO TELL YOU-- DON'T SHOOT BRUCE BANNER! YOU'VE GOT TO CANCEL THAT ORDER!

NOT A CHANCE! HE'S GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME!

THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM FIRST-- GOT TO WARN HIM!

STOP HIM!! CATCH THAT BOY!! DON'T LET HIM REACH BRUCE BANNER! AFTER HIM!

C'MON, KID-- DON'T MAKE IT TOUGH ON YOURSELF! WE DON'T WANNA GET ROUGH WITH YOU!

GRAB 'IM, JACK, OR THE GENERAL'LL HAVE OUR HIDES!

YOU GRAB HIM! IT'S LIKE TRYIN' TO HOLD ONTO A GREASED PIG!

BUT, SECONDS LATER, THE CHASE ENDS AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD BEGUN...

WE FOUND HIM LYING HERE, SIR! DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM!

PUT HIM ON THE TABLE AND TEND TO HIS WOUND!

DR. BANNER!! THEY SHOT HIM!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM, SIR!

HOLD IT, KID! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

HE'S NOT MOVING! HE'S NOT BREATHING!!

HIS PULSE IS SO FAINT, THAT I--NO! IT STOPPED! THERE'S NO PULSE AT ALL!

GENTLEMEN, THE TRAITOR IS DEAD!

the END

NO! OUR SERIES IS NOT YET OVER! DON'T MISS THE STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH AWAIT YOU NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

70 AUG

STARTLING SPECTACLE! ★★★★ PEERLESS PAGEANTRY! ★★★★★ IN THE WORLD-FAMOUS MARVEL MANNER!

WE BOW TO YOUR DEMANDS! HIS OWN SERIES... AT LAST!!

Prince NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!

"...TO LIVE AGAIN!" DISASTER STRIKES THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"TO LIVE AGAIN!"

OUR DRAMA-PACKED SOAP OPERA THUS FAR:

THE LEADER (A VERY NAUGHTY SUPER-SPY) CAPTURED THE HULK!

THE ARMY (HEROES ALL) LOCATED THE LEADER'S HIDEOUT AND BROKE IN!

THE HULK (LOVEABLE AS EVER) TURNED INTO BRUCE BANNER AND WAS HIT BY A FATAL BULLET!

ENOUGH? OKAY--LET'S GO!

DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING! CHECK FOR BOOBY-TRAPS!

TAKE A STAN LEE STORY, ADD JACK KIRBY ARTWORK, MIX WITH MICKEY DEMEO INKING, AND ARTIE SIMEK LETTERING... PRESTO! INSTANT CONFUSION!

EARTH-SHAKING EDITOR'S NOTE: IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, THIS IS A PLASTIC REPLICA OF THE HULK, WHICH THE LEADER HAD USED FOR STUDY!

THE LEADER ESCAPED! THE PLACE IS DESERTED!

A *FINE* THING! BANNER'S GREATEST INVENTION -- THE *ABSORBATRON* -- WAS DESTROYED! AND THE *HULK* ESCAPED! YOU'RE BATTING *ZERO*, MAJOR TALBOT!

NOT *QUITE*, GENERAL ROSS! BRUCE BANNER IS *DEAD!* HE'LL NEVER BETRAY HIS COUNTRY AGAIN!

HE WAS SHOT WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE!

SIR! SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED!* BANNER'S BODY IS *GONE!*

WHAT?? HOW--?

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE! LET'S CHECK *INTO* IT!

MAYBE HE *WASN'T* DEAD! IF HE'S ESCAPED ME AGAIN -- !!

NOT A *CHANCE*, SIR! I EXAMINED HIM MYSELF! HE *COULDN'T* HAVE REVIVED!

FASTER! FASTER! HE CAN'T HAVE GONE *FAR!* SPREAD OUT! SEARCH EVERY *INCH* OF THIS PLACE! A DESPERATELY WOUNDED MAN CAN'T OUTRUN US!

BUT, BRUCE BANNER IS *NOT* "OUTRUNNING" ANYONE! HIS LIFELESS BODY LIES ON THE SEAT OF A RACING TRUCK, SLUMPED NEXT TO A FRANTIC *RICK JONES--!*

THERE'S *STILL* A CHANCE OF SAVING DR. BANNER! IF I CAN JUST REACH HIS HIDDEN UNDERGROUND LABORATORY IN TIME--!

I'VE READ CASES OF MEN WHO RETURNED TO LIFE -- EVEN THOUGH THEIR HEARTS HAD STOPPED BEATING -- JUST SO LONG AS TOO MUCH TIME HADN'T PASSED!

BANNER IS REALLY *TWO* MEN! *ONE* OF THEM STOPPED A BULLET -- BUT, IF I CAN BRING THE *OTHER* BACK TO LIFE...!

NO ORDINARY REVOLVER BULLET COULD KILL THE *HULK!* IF I CAN TRANSFORM *BANNER* BACK TO THE *HULK* IN TIME--PERHAPS HE CAN *LIVE* AGAIN!

EVERY *SECOND* COUNTS!! I CAN'T AFFORD ONE MISTAKE! I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HOW BANNER'S RAY MACHINES OPERATE--!

THERE! I'VE DONE ALL I *CAN!* THERE'S NOTHING LEFT, BUT-- *HOPE!*

AND, AS THE TEEN-AGER'S TREMBLING FINGERS RELEASE THE DELICATE CONTROL LEVERS, A THOUSAND VOLTS OF GAMMA RAY ENERGY BOMBARD THE STILL, LIFELESS FIGURE...

UNTIL...

A *BREATH!* I HEARD HIM TAKE A *BREATH!*

HE'S *CHANGING!* GROWING *BIGGER!!* IT'S *WORKING* --I REACHED HIM IN *TIME--!!*

HIS EYES ARE OPENING!! HE'S CHANGED INTO--- THE *HULK!!*

HULK--WAIT!! IF--IF ONLY I CAN MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND--!

I DO UNDERSTAND, RICK! YOU SAVED MY LIFE! THE DEBT BETWEEN US IS CANCELLED!

YOUR VOICE!! YOUR WORDS!! YOU'VE THE BODY OF THE HULK--BUT THIS TIME YOUR BRAIN IS THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER!

YES! AND I REMEMBER EVERYTHING! THE BULLET WHICH IS LODGED WITHIN MY SKULL MUST HAVE AFFECTED MY MIND! MY BRAIN IS NO LONGER CLOUDED!

BUT, ONLY THE POWER OF THE HULK CAN KEEP ME ALIVE! IF I BECOME BANNER AGAIN, THE BULLET WILL CAUSE MY DEATH--FOREVER!

THEN YOU'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP FROM CHANGING! BUT--WHAT IF YOU FAIL!

I WON'T FAIL! MY VERY LIFE DEPENDS UPON NEVER CHANGING BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!

AND, AS THE HULK, NOW GUIDED BY THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF DR. BRUCE BANNER, DESPERATELY BEGINS WORK ON A NEW BIO-CHEMICAL FORMULA, WE TURN TO THE MYSTERIOUS SPY-MASTER KNOWN AS THE LEADER--!

YOU HAVE FAILED! YOU PROMISED TO DELIVER THE AMERICANS' ABSORBATRON TO US!

THE ACCURSED HULK RUINED MY PLAN! BUT, I HAVE SOMETHING EQUALLY VALUABLE FOR YOU--IF YOU WILL PAY MY PRICE!

MONEY IS NO OBJECT! WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

THE ABSORBATRON WAS ONLY A DEFENSIVE WEAPON--TO ABSORB THE POWER OF ATOM BOMBS! BUT, I HAVE THE GREATEST OFFENSIVE WEAPON EVER CREATED!

IT WILL COST YOU--ONE BILLION DOLLARS!!

FIRST, PROVE ITS WORTH! USE IT TO DESTROY THE SOUTHWEST MISSILE BASE, AND THE MONEY SHALL BE YOURS!

CONSIDER IT DONE!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE EDGE OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST DESERT COUNTRY...

ONCE I HAVE THEIR BILLION DOLLARS, I'LL ATTACK *THEM* AS WELL AS THE AMERICANS! I'LL NEVER REST TILL ALL THE WORLD BOWS DOWN TO THE SUPER INTELLIGENCE OF THE *LEADER!*

NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS FIRE ONE BURST OF ELECTRON PARTICLES INTO THAT PLASTIC, MEMBRANOUS COVERING TO RELEASE MY "WEAPON"--!

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT-- A FIVE-HUNDRED FOOT HIGH *HUMANOID*-- THE STRONGEST ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION ON EARTH!!

AND, BEST OF ALL, HE IS COMPLETELY, UNALTERABLY SUBJECT TO *MY* EVERY COMMAND!

YOUR FIRST TASK IS TO UTTERLY *DESTROY* THE MISSILE BASE IN THE VALLEY BEYOND! NOW *GO!*

WALK RIGHT *THRU* THAT MOUNTAIN!! NOTHING CAN *STOP* YOU!

ARMY PATROL PLANES! THEY'VE *SIGHTED* HIM! THEY'RE SURE TO *ATTACK!*

HOMING PIGEON TO EAGLES' ROOST! HAVE SIGHTED GIANT SOMETHING-OR-OTHER ADVANCING TOWARDS BASE! FROM NIGHTMARESVILLE!

AM ATTACKING WITH ROCKETS! BETTER SEND DETAIL TO PICK UP PIECES! OVER!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AN INCREDIBLE, GREEN-SKINNED FIGURE SILENTLY LEAPS INTO THE CENTER OF THE MISSILE BASE, PROPELLED BY THE STRONGEST LEG MUSCLES OF ANY MORTAL....!

IF MY CALCULATIONS WERE CORRECT, THE POTION I DRANK WILL ENABLE ME TO *REMAIN* IN THE SHAPE OF THE *HULK* FOR A FULL FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!

BUT, I'LL HAVE TO *RENEW* THE DOSAGE EVERY TWO DAYS IN ORDER TO REMAIN ALIVE!

AND, IF I'M DESTINED TO LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY LIFE AS THE *HULK*, I'VE GOT TO SEE THE GIRL I LOVE ONCE MORE-- JUST TO GAZE AT HER BEAUTY-- BEFORE I LEAVE HER--*FOREVER!*

YOU SAY BRUCE BANNER IS *DEAD!* OH, *NO!* IT-- IT *CAN'T* BE!!

YOU MUST ACCEPT IT, BETTY--LEARN TO *FORGET* HIM! HE WAS A *TRAITOR*-- NOT WORTHY OF YOUR LOVE!

PERHAPS--ALTHOUGH IT BREAKS MY HEART--PERHAPS IT'S BEST THAT SHE *BELIEVES* I WAS A TRAITOR--PERHAPS IT WILL EASE THE PAIN OF OUR NEVER SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN!

LET *ME* TAKE HIS PLACE, MY DEAREST! IN TIME, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER!

I-I *LOVED* HIM SO! NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE EVER SAYS ABOUT HIM-- I LOVED HIM!

I'LL *NEVER* BELIEVE HE WAS A TRAITOR! I KNOW HE HAD SOME TRAGIC SECRET WHICH TORMENTED HIM-- BUT HE WASN'T A TRAITOR--HE *WASN'T!*

CONFOUNDED PHONE!! I *TOLD* THEM I WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED--EXCEPT IN A CASE OF THE MOST EXTREME EMERGENCY!

WHAT CAN IT *BE?!?*

GOODBYE --MY DARLING! BLESS YOU FOR YOUR TRUST--!

RINNG!

WHAT?!?! SOME SORT OF MONSTROUS CREATURE HEADING FOR THE BASE!! IS IT--? OH, IT *ISN'T* THE HULK! *FIVE HUNDRED FEET HIGH?!!* THE PLANE'S ROCKETS CAN'T *STOP* IT?!?

ALERT ALL SECURITY DETAILS! I'LL REPORT TO GENERAL ROSS AT *ONCE!*

EVEN AS THE STARTLED MAJOR GLEN TALBOT SLAMS DOWN THE PHONE, THE *LEADER'S* GIGANTIC HUMANOID, HAVING SHRUGGED OFF THE FIGHTER PLANE'S ROCKET ATTACK, STORMS EVER CLOSER TO THE NEARBY BASE...!

OUR SHELLS DON'T *STOP* 'IM! IT'S GONNA TAKE *MISSILES* TO MAKE A DENT IN *THAT!*

EVERYBODY *BACK*-- ON THE DOUBLE! CLEAR THE AREA! WE'VE CALLED FOR A *MISSILE ATTACK!*

THEY BETTER LAUNCH 'EM *FAST!* THIS IS LIKE TRYIN' TO TOPPLE A *MOUNTAIN* WITH SPITBALLS!!

MINUTES LATER, AS SOON AS THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN HAVE TAKEN SHELTER, A COMPLEX OF SILOS OPEN SMOOTHLY...

...AS AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE SMALL CALIBER MISSILE IS FIRED AT THE APPROACHING GOLIATH--!

MISSILE DEAD ON TARGET! ALL UNITS STAND BY FOR IMPACT!

WAIT! WHAT'S *THAT!* SOMETHING HURTLING THRU THE AIR TOWARDS THE MONSTER! IT-- IT LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN FIGURE--!

IT'S THE *HULK!* HE STRUCK THE MISSILE SIDEWAYS--DEFLECTING IT!

HE MISSED THE WARHEAD'S *PRIMER CAP*-- SO IT DIDN'T EXPLODE!

THUD!

I TRIED TO *HELP!* DIDN'T SEE THE MISSILE UNTIL TOO LATE-- COULDN'T STOP!

IT *CAUGHT* ME!! I'M LIKE AN *INSECT* IN ITS GARGANTUAN HAND!!

BUT NO INSECT *ANYWHERE* EVER HAD THE *STRENGTH* OF THE *HULK!!*

EVEN THOUGH HE'S SQUEEZING HIS HAND-- PUTTING THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF *PRESSURE* ON ME--!

I CAN PUT PRESSURE ON, *TOO!* AND THE *MADDER* I GET, THE *STRONGER* I GET--!!

THWUPPPP!

I *DID* IT! I *FORCED* HIM TO OPEN HIS FINGERS!

BUT, I'VE GOTTA GET *BACK* TO HIM! IF *I* CAN'T STOP HIM, *NOBODY* CAN!

BUT, A SUDDEN *SHELL BLAST* UNEXPECTEDLY CHANGES THE HULK'S BATTLE PLAN...!

PTOOM!

THE *HULK* MUST BE IN *LEAGUE* WITH THAT MONSTER! OUR MISSILE WOULD HAVE *HIT* HIM IF THAT GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE HADN'T *DEFLECTED* IT! BUT *THAT'LL* SLOW THE HULK DOWN NOW!

WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE CHANCES! FIRE *ALL* MISSILES --POINT BLANK RANGE!

IF *THEY* DON'T DO THE TRICK, WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE *SUNDAY PUNCH* SUPER ROCKET!

YES *SIR*, GENERAL ROSS!

THAT THING WAS BUILT TO BE *UNSTOPPABLE!* I DON'T THINK *MISSILES* ARE THE ANSWER!

WELL, WE'LL SOON FIND *OUT*, MAJOR! THERE THEY *GO!!*

PERFECT! EVERY ONE STRUCK RIGHT ON TARGET!

--WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO REDUCE A FLEET OF *BATTLESHIPS* TO ASHES!

MEANTIME, THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL TO STRIDE THE EARTH GATHERS HIS STRENGTH ANEW AS THE VERY GROUND BENEATH HIS FEET TREMBLES FROM THE FORCE OF THE TITANIC EXPLOSIONS!

WHY DID THEY *FIRE* AT ME?? I WAS TRYING TO *HELP* THEM!

THOSE MISSILES *STAGGERED* THE HUMANOID, BUT HE'S GETTING *UP!* HE'S STILL *UNHARMED!*

IT'S UP TO *ME* AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP HIM--MEETING FORCE WITH FORCE!!

FIRST, I'LL SLAM INTO HIM WITH ALL MY MIGHT-- JUST TO GET IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM!!

I *DID* IT! HE'S FALLING BACK!

HE'S NOT *HURT*-- YET, IF I CAN KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE LONG ENOUGH--!

BUT, BEFORE THE HULK CAN LEAP UP TO RENEW HIS ATTACK...!

ORDER ALL PERSONNEL TO EVACUATE THE AREA! WE CAN'T LET THAT WALKING NIGHTMARE GET ANY CLOSER!

OUR *SUNDAY PUNCH* SUPER-MISSILE WILL DISINTEGRATE ANY TARGET IN EXISTENCE! PREPARE FOR COUNTDOWN!

SUNDAY PUNCH MISSILE-M 1-472

ATTENTION ALL UNITS! TAKE PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED POSITIONS OF COVER! COUNTDOWN IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

SPEED IT UP, MAJOR! IF WE HURRY WE MIGHT GET THE HUMANOID AND THE *HULK* WITH THE SAME MISSILE!

BUT, ONE LONE FIGURE DOES *NOT* TAKE COVER!

THE *HULK* DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SUPER-MISSILE! IT'LL BLOW HIM TO SMITHEREENS!

I'VE *GOT* TO WARN HIM BEFORE THE COUNT-DOWN ENDS!

HULK! HULK! COME *BACK!* YOU'VE GOT TO *HEAR* ME--YOU'VE *GOT* TO--!!

the END

THE EPISODE YOU'VE JUST READ IS A SLEEPY-TIME LULLABY COMPARED TO THE SIZZLER THAT AWAITS YOU NEXT ISH! SO DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S *ASTONISH*-- IT'S A *DOOZY!*

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

71 SEPT

MARVEL POP ART PRODUCTIONS 12¢

THE SUB-MARINER, Starring in:

"ESCAPE TO NOWHERE!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"LIKE A BEAST AT BAY!"

NOT REALIZING THAT GENERAL ROSS HAS JUST LAUNCHED HIS "*SUNDAY PUNCH*" MISSILE AT THE 500-FOOT TALL ***HUMANOID*** WHICH IS ATTACKING THE BASE, THE RAGING ***HULK*** LEAPS INTO BATTLE AS A DESPERATE RICK JONES RACES TO WARN HIM....!

RICK! GET ***BACK,*** YOU FOOL!! WHA--?!!

HULK!! THEY'RE GONNA LAUNCH A ***GIANT MISSILE*** AT--OH, ***NO!!*** I'M ***TOO LATE!***

PRODUCED BY A TITANIC ARRAY OF TALENT SUCH AS ONLY MIGHTY ***MARVEL*** COULD MUSTER FOR ONE EPIC ADVENTURE...

STAN LEE, *STUNNING STORY*
JACK KIRBY, *LAVISH LAYOUTS*
MICKEY DEMEO, *AWESOME ART*
ARTIE SIMEK, *LUSCIOUS LETTERING*

A BULLPEN *ACTION* BOMB-SHELL!

IT'S THE SUPER-SIZED PROTOTYPE ***SUNDAY PUNCHER!*** LUCKY FOR US, IT WAS LAUNCHED FROM NEARBY, SO IT HASN'T HAD ENOUGH DISTANCE TO PICK UP MAXIMUM SPEED!!

WE HAVEN'T A ***CHANCE!*** WE--WE'RE ***GONERS*** FOR SURE!

NOT WHILE THE ***HULK*** STILL HAS THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS ON EARTH! ***HANG ON,*** KID--

--WE'VE GOT SOME ***TRAVELLIN'*** TO DO!

I WOULD'VE LIKED TO TOSS JUST ***ONE*** RIGHT HOOK AT THAT THING, BUT HE'S ***LUCKY***-- HE'LL JUST HAVE AN ATOMIC ***MISSILE*** TO CHEW ON, INSTEAD!

IT'S ABOUT TO ***HIT!*** YOU'LL NEVER GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY IN ***TIME!***

DON'T BE TOO SURE, RICK! OUR SPEED'S ***INCREASING*** EVERY SECOND!!

Y-YOU ***DID*** IT! THE MUSHROOM CLOUD JUST ***MISSED*** US!

BUT WE'RE NOT CLEAR ***YET!*** IT'LL SPREAD UP ***AFTER*** US!

CAN YOU SEE THE *HUMANOID?* DID THE MISSILE FINISH IT OFF??

IT LANDED RIGHT ON *TARGET,* DOC--BUT I COULDN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED!

DON'T *EVER* CALL ME "DOC"! DR. BANNER IS *DEAD!* FROM NOW ON, I'M JUST THE *HULK!*

H-HOLY SMOKE!! WHAT'S *THAT??* WHAT'S *HAPPENING??*

IT'S THE DELAYED *SHOCK WAVE!* I WAS COUNTING ON IT TO HURL US INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, BEYOND THE DANGER OF THE FIREBALL!

THE KID PASSED OUT BECAUSE OF THE THIN AIR!

IT'S JUST AS WELL! THE FALL BACK TO EARTH WON'T BE ANY PICNIC!!

THEN, AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY OF ENDLESS PLUMMETING...

THE TRAJECTORY CARRIED US SAFELY BEYOND THE RADIATION AREA!

FROM HERE ON IN, WE'LL HAVE IT *MADE!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE MISSILE BASE COMMAND BUNKER, WE FIND...

I STILL CAN'T TELL WHETHER THE BLAST GOT THE HULK, GENERAL!

HANG THE HULK!! THAT HUMANOID WAS OUR PRIMARY TARGET! DID WE STOP HIM??

WAIT! THE SMOKE IS FINALLY CLEARING! I CAN SEE-- YES! THE HUMANOID IS DOWN! WE FINISHED HIM!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR!

NOW, SINCE THE SUNDAY PUNCH WAS THE LARGEST OF OUR NEW CLEAN BOMBS WHICH LEAVE NO LINGERING RADIOACTIVITY, WE CAN BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE INSPECTION!

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER, A MILITARY BATTALION SCURRIES AROUND THE LIFELESS BEHEMOTH LIKE A SWARM OF LILLIPUTIANS AROUND A FALLEN GULLIVER...

DUE TO ITS PLASTIC COMPOSITION, THE BLAST DIDN'T DISINTEGRATE IT, BUT IT IS COMPLETELY INOPERATIVE NOW!

THIS WILL GIVE OUR RESEARCH BOYS SOMETHING TO OCCUPY THEM FOR MONTHS!

YOU MAY BEGIN CLEANING-UP OPERATIONS NOW, MAJOR!

VERY WELL, SIR! I HOPE THE BLAST GOT THE HULK, TOO! SO FAR THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM!

BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

A WALL OF FIRE --COMPLETELY ENCIRCLING THE HUMANOID! WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE??

SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, IS TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM ANALYZING THAT MECHANICAL MONSTER!

AND, MANY MILES AWAY, OBSERVING THE ENTIRE TABLEAU THRU AN ELABORATE SECRET TV COMPLEX, WE FIND THE EVIL, GREEN-SKINNED *LEADER*--!

I *HAD* TO PRESS THE "FLAME-DESTRUCT" BUTTON! I COULD NOT ALLOW MY CREATION TO FALL INTO OTHER HANDS!

WITHIN SECONDS, ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE HUMANOID SHALL BE A USELESS PILE OF ASHES!

ONCE AGAIN, THE *HULK* HAS UNWITTINGLY INTERFERED WITH MY PLANS, BUT *THIS* TIME HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE ME AGAIN!

SINCE PICKING HIM UP IN MY TV SCANNER, I SHALL *KEEP* HIM IN RANGE, UNTIL I'VE LEARNED HIS SECRET!

I DO NOT KNOW WHO THE *BOY* IS, NOR WHY THE HULK TRIED TO *SAVE* HIM--BUT IT SHALL ALL BE CLEAR TO ME IN *TIME!*

SOONER OR LATER, I SHALL MAKE THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT MY ALLY--OR *DESTROY* HIM!

AND, IN THE HEART OF THE GREAT, ROLLING DESERT, THE HULK MAKES A GRIM DISCOVERY...

I CAN'T REVIVE HIM! HE'S HARDLY BREATHING!

THE SHOCK MUST HAVE BEEN TOO *MUCH* FOR HIM! BUT--I CAN'T LET HIM *DIE!*

HIS ONLY CHANCE IS ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION! AND THERE'S *NOBODY* CAN APPLY IT LIKE *ME*-- MY LUNGS ARE THE WORLD'S STRONGEST, AND I'M PRACTICALLY *TIRELESS!*

I MUSTN'T STOP! I SAW HIS EYELID FLICKER--!

HULK!! TH-THEN WE *MADE* IT--!

SURE, KID! YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW SOON!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE RETURNING BATTALION PASSES WITHIN EARSHOT OF THE GREEN GOLIATH...

HOLD IT, RICK! LOOKS LIKE ROSS'S MEN ARE STILL OUT TO GET ME!!

WELL, IF IT'S A FIGHT THEY WANT--!

HULK--NO! THEY--THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST RETURNING TO BASE! THEY'RE SURE TO THINK YOU'RE DEAD BY NOW!

DON'T DO IT! DON'T ATTACK THEM!

WHY NOT?? THEY'LL NEVER STOP HOUNDIN' ME--!!

PLEASE-- HULK--! I-I'M WEAK--NEED REST! YOU'VE GOTTA GET ME BACK--!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR HIDDEN CAVE, WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE!

AND THEN-- I'M GOIN' OUT ON MY OWN-- WITH NO ONE TO STOP ME!

EVEN THOUGH THE HULK NOW HAS BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN, HE'S CHANGED! HE'S COLDER, FIERCER, MORE VIOLENT THAN DR. BANNER EVER WAS!

BUT, AS THE HULK CONTEMPTUOUSLY LEAPS FROM PEAK TO PEAK, ANOTHER PAIR OF SHARP, PROBING EYES SUDDENLY SPOTS HIM...

GENERAL! IT'S THE HULK-- I SEE HIM! HE'S STILL ALIVE!

GOOD! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FIREPOWER WITH US NOW TO FINISH HIM OFF-- AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO!

I WONDER IF HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPOSING OF THE HUMANOID?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! HE'S HAMPERED US AND DEFIED US FOR THE LAST TIME!

GET THIS COLUMN MOVING! PROCEED AT FULL SPEED! LET'S GO!

TALBOT! CONTACT OUR JETS! IF THEY LOSE SIGHT OF THE HULK, THEY'LL ANSWER TO ME FOR IT!

DON'T WORRY, SIR! THEY'VE ALREADY SEEN HIM DUCK INTO A CAVE ENTRANCE! HE'S TRAPPED!

HULK! THOSE OBSERVATION PLANES HAVE SPOTTED YOU! IF GENERAL ROSS LEARNS YOUR HIDDEN LAB IS HERE--!

SHUDDUP, KID! I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND!

I'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE ALL MY EQUIPMENT IS IN PERFECT ORDER! IT'S GOTTA STOP ME FROM CHANGING BACK TO BANNER EVERY FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!

THAT'S RIGHT-- I FORGOT! YOU STILL HAVE THAT BULLET IN YOUR SKULL! IF YOU TURN BACK TO BRUCE BANNER, IT'LL KILL YOU!

BUT I'M NOT CHANGIN' BACK--NOT AS LONG AS I CAN TURN THESE GAMMA-RAY MACHINES ON ME EVERY TWO DAYS!

IF ONLY THAT BULLET COULD BE REMOVED, THEN NOTHING COULD HURT YOU!

YEAH, IF! AND IF I WASN'T THE HULK, MAYBE I'D BE ROCK HUDSON!

LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT NOISE? ---CANNONFIRE!

THE PLANE'S MUSTA RADIOED YOUR LOCATION! MAYBE THEY RUSHED SOME ARTILLERY OUT HERE!

HARDLY HAVE THOSE WORDS LEFT RICK'S LIPS, THAN THE FIRST OF MANY BLAST CONCUSSIONS ROCKS THE UNDERGROUND LABYRINTH...

TAKE COVER! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

BUT...THEY MUSTN'T! IF THEY WRECK THE LAB, YOU'RE FINISHED!

HULK! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! COME OUT AND SURRENDER, OR WE'LL HIT YOU WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

LET HIM HAVE ANOTHER SALVO!! SHOW HIM WE MEAN BUSINESS!

I HOPE THE BRASS KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOIN'! IF THAT GREEN-SKINNED POWER-HOUSE COMES CHARGIN' OUTTA THERE, ANYTHING'S LIABLE TO HAPPEN!

ALL RIGHT, HULK! YOU HAD YOUR WARNING!

WHOOM

HULK, LET ME RUN OUT! MEBBE I CAN GET THEM TO STOP! I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN TO THEM--!

FORGET IT!! I KNOW HOW TO STOP THEM--AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT!

NO! YOU CAN'T GO OUT AND FIGHT 'EM --YOU MUSTN'T!

I MUSTN'T, HUH?

WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, KID! THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO! THE HULK IS THRU WITH RUNNING!!

THERE'S NOTHIN' THOSE TIN CANNONS CAN DO THAT THE HULK CAN'T DO TWICE AS GOOD!

KRSH!

DISPERSE!! HE'S RETURNING OUR FIRE!!

BUT-- HE'S DOING IT BY -GASP!- *THROWING BOULDERS!!*

FALL BACK! TAKE COVER! WE'LL REGROUP BEHIND YONDER RIDGE! *MOVE!*

THE HULK IS *DESPERATE* NOW! HE'S TRAPPED, AND HE *KNOWS* IT!

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS MOMENT! HE'S *GOT* TO COME TO US, SOONER OR LATER!

BUT, HE'S ESCAPED US *BEFORE,* SIR! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES! HE MUST BE KEPT ON THE DEFENSIVE!

ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL *ME* HOW TO ENGAGE AN ENEMY, MAJOR??! GIVE ME THAT BULL HORN!!

HE'LL BE MY PRISONER WITHIN THE HOUR, OR HE'LL BE *DESTROYED!*

HULK! LOOK *ABOVE* YOU! THOSE PLANES ARE CARRYING BOMBS WITH *NUCLEAR* WARHEADS!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! GIVE YOURSELF UP, OR WE'LL BLAST THAT CAVE OFF THE FACE OF THE MAP!

THIS IS *IT,* KID! YOU GET OUTTA HERE--THEY WON'T HURT *YOU!*

NO! I WON'T LEAVE YOU! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A *CHANCE!* YOU'VE GOT TO SURRENDER *WITH* ME!

I SAID *GET OUT!*

HULK--*LISTEN* TO ME! EVEN *YOU* CAN'T FIGHT ATOMIC BOMBS! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY--!

OKAY! IF *YOU* WON'T GO, *I* WILL! THEY WON'T SHELL THE CAVE ONCE I'M OUTSIDE!

WAIT! DON'T GO OUT UNLESS YOU INTEND TO GIVE UP! IF YOU *FIGHT*, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS *DEAD!*

YOU *HAD* YOUR CHANCE, HULK! NOW WE'LL COMMENCE *FIRING*--!!

NO! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE *WITH* ME!! YOU *CAN'T*--!!

BLAST 'EM! THEY DON'T *HEAR* ME!!

HULK, *WAIT!* WHAT ARE YA *DOIN'??* *STOP*--!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, KID! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO *ME*, I'M NOT DRAGGING *YOU* INTO THIS! GET OUT-- THEY'LL HOLD THEIR FIRE LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO JOIN 'EM!

ONCE *YOU'RE* IN THE CLEAR, IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHAT* BECOMES OF ME!! THIS'LL BE THE END OF THE HULK, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

BUT, AS THE PROTESTING TEEN-AGER IS FORCED FROM THE CAVE, *ANOTHER* FIGURE APPEARS! THE TRANSPARENT PROJECTO-IMAGE OF--THE *LEADER!*

YOU! THE ONE WHO TRIED TO MAKE ME A *PRISONER* BEFORE!*

HULK, I BRING YOU YOUR *LAST HOPE!*

*ASTONISH #69 --STAN.

BY MEANS OF MY PROJECTO-RAY, I CAN TRANSPORT YOU FROM THIS CAVE--TAKING YOU WHERE YOU'LL BE *SAFE!*

SAFE FROM THE *ARMY*, YOU MEAN--BUT THEN *YOU'LL* HAVE ME AGAIN!

SOMETHING HAS *CHANGED* YOU! YOU SPEAK WITH *INTELLIGENCE!* BUT, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER--!

WE ARE *BOTH* PRODUCTS OF *GAMMA RAY* INDUCEMENT! WITH MY BRAINS--AND YOUR POWER--WE ARE DESTINED TO BECOME *ALLIES!* TOGETHER, WE CAN RULE THE WORLD!

ACKNOWLEDGE *ME* AS YOUR LEADER--SWEAR TO *SERVE* ME --OR ELSE I LEAVE YOU HERE, TO FACE CERTAIN *DEATH!*

THE CHOICE IS *YOURS!*

NEXT ISSUE: "THE FATEFUL CHOICE!!"

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

72 OCT

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

"A PRINCE THERE WAS!"

"WITHIN THE MONSTER DWELLS A MAN!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

"Within Dwells THE MONSTER A MAN!"

LET'S GET UP TO OUR EPIC EPISODE FAST...

TRAPPED IN HIS CAVE HIDEOUT BY AN ARMY MISSILE FORCE, THE HULK SENDS RICK JONES OUT TO SAFETY... FOR, THE GREEN GOLIATH PLANS TO REMAIN WITHIN THE CAVE UNTIL DEATH ITSELF SHALL END HIS UNCANNY ORDEAL!

BUT THEN, JUST AS THE TROOPS BEGIN THEIR FINAL ASSAULT, THE TRANSPARENT PROJECTO-IMAGE OF THE EVIL LEADER APPEARS...

THRILLS, AS ONLY STAN LEE'S STORY CAN PROVIDE THEM!

POWER, AS ONLY JACK KIRBY'S LAYOUTS CAN CREATE IT!

DRAMA, AS ONLY MICKEY DEMEO'S ARTWORK CAN PRESENT IT!

SOUND EFFECTS, AS ONLY SAM ROSEN'S PEN POINT CAN LETTER THEM!

NOW THAT YOU'RE PROBABLY COMPLETELY CONFUSED, YOU'RE IN JUST THE RIGHT CONDITION TO CONTINUE OUR LITTLE CLASSIC...

THIS IS YOUR *LAST CHANCE*, HULK! SAY THE WORD, AND I SHALL *SAVE* YOU FROM THE ARMY... SO THAT WE CAN BE *ALLIES!*

I DON'T NEED *YOU*... OR *ANYBODY!* I'M STILL THE *HULK!!* MY *STRENGTH* CAN STILL SAVE ME FROM *ANYTHING!*

GET *BACK*... QUICK!! HE'S RIPPING DOWN THE WHOLE WALL OF THE CAVE!!

HE'S TRYIN' TO KILL US *ALL*.. HIMSELF INCLUDED!

KRRAKK!

YOU DROVE THEM FROM THE CAVE, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! THEY'LL ATTACK WITH *ARTILLERY* NEXT... AND THEN *MISSILES!*

EVEN *YOU* CAN'T DEFEAT THE ARMY! BUT, I CAN ENABLE YOU TO *ESCAPE!*

THEN TOGETHER, YOU AND I... THE ONLY TWO GREEN-SKINNED HUMANS ON EARTH... CAN RULE THE WORLD!

NUTS! I DON'T WANT ANY *PART* OF THIS CRUMMY WORLD! YOU CAN *HAVE* IT!

THEN, A SECOND LATER...

WHOOM

I *TOLD* YOU THEY'D RESORT TO ARTILLERY!

YOUR TIME GROWS SHORT, HULK!

IT'S *USELESS*, GENERAL! THE *HULK* WILL NEVER SURRENDER! WE'D HAVE TO WIPE OUT THAT WHOLE *MOUNTAIN* TO GET AT HIM!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'LL *DO*, LIEUTENANT! TELL THE MISSILE BATTALION THE WORD IS *GO!*

NO, GENERAL ... *DON'T!* YOU *MUSTN'T!*

SILENCE, BOY! YOU'RE THE *LAST* ONE I'D EXPECT TO PLEAD FOR THAT GREEN-SKINNED MENACE! DIDN'T HE HOLD YOU *CAPTIVE ??*

NO, SIR!.. IT WASN'T THAT WAY! YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND..!*

I THINK *I'M* BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND, JONES!

WHAT IF HE *WASN'T* THE HULK'S CAPTIVE, GENERAL? WHAT IF THEY'RE IN *LEAGUE* WITH EACH OTHER?

BUT, BEFORE MAJOR GLEN TALBOT CAN RECEIVE AN ANSWER, THE ORDER OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS IS CARRIED OUT, AS THE SPEEDING *MISSILES* ROAR TOWARD THEIR TARGET!

R-R-U-O-O-M!

THE ORDER IS "*GO!*"!!

ALTHOUGH ARMED WITH CONVENTIONAL RATHER THAN NUCLEAR WARHEADS, THE MIGHTY ROCKETS VIRTUALLY *LEVEL* THE MINIATURE MOUNTAIN WHICH HOUSES THE HULK'S LAIR....!

WHOOEEEOOM!!

THAT BARRAGE WILL EITHER FLUSH HIM OUT, OR *DESTROY* HIM!

AND, INSIDE THE NOW-CRUMBLING CAVE ...

MY *EQUIPMENT*!! MY GAMMA-RAY MACHINES!! THEY'RE BEING WRECKED... SMASHED TO PIECES!!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE *YOU* SHARE THEIR FATE! WHY WON'T YOU *JOIN* ME?

RUMMMBLE

I DON'T JOIN *ANYONE*!! I'M THE *HULK*... UNDERSTAND??! I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM *ANYBODY*!!

UHHNNNHH...!

I *WARN* YOU, HULK... MY PATIENCE IS NOT INEXHAUSTIBLE! EITHER AGREE TO LET ME TAKE YOU WITH ME NOW ...OR I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FATE!

MY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DESTROYED! SO I CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM TURNING BACK TO *BRUCE BANNER!* AND IF I *DO* CHANGE BACK ... THE BULLET LODGED IN MY HEAD WILL *KILL* ME! BUT THE *LEADER* IS A SCIENTIST... *HE* MAY HAVE SOME EQUIPMENT!..!

I'M WAITING FOR YOUR ANSWER!

WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE? EVERY MAN ON EARTH IS MY *ENEMY!*.. HOUNDING ME... FEARING ME...! I OWE THE HUMAN RACE *NOTHING!*

OKAY! I'LL *DO* IT! GET ME *OUT* OF HERE!

AT *LAST!*

HIS IMAGE *VANISHED!* IT JUST FADED AWAY!

HEY! WHERE DID YOU *GO??*

SUDDENLY, THE FIGURE THAT HAD BEEN THE *HULK*, JUST A MICRO-SECOND BEFORE, IS TRANSFORMED INTO FLOWING *ELECTRO-WAVES...!*

THE SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN WHAT YOU ARE SEEING IS TOO COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL ON THESE PAGES...

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE ELECTRO-WAVES TRAVEL FROM THE HULK'S DESERT CAVE, ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, TO THE HEART OF *ITALY*, AT NEARLY THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, HULK! THIS METHOD, WHICH I CALL *MATTER-PORTATION*, IS AS HARMLESS AS IT IS SPECTACULAR!

HEY...WHEN YOU CALLED YOURSELF A *GENIUS*, YOU WEREN'T JUST WHISTLIN' IN THE DARK!

NATURALLY! THE GAMMA-RAY EXPLOSION WHICH TURNED MY SKIN THE COLOR OF *YOURS*, GAVE ME THE STRONGEST BRAIN ON EARTH!

JUST AS A *SIMILAR* GAMMA-RAY ACCIDENT MUST HAVE GIVEN *YOU* THE STRONGEST *BODY* ON EARTH!

BUT, IN THE CAVE YOU SAID THE SHELLS WERE DESTROYING *YOUR* EQUIPMENT! SURELY A BRUTE LIKE *YOU* CAN HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE!

I WAS *CARELESS!* GOTTA *WATCH* MYSELF!

SKIP THAT! FIRST TELL ME WHERE I AM... AND WHY I'M *HERE?*

YOU ARE IN ONE OF MY MANY HIDDEN LABORATORIES! I HAVE A NETWORK OF THEM THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE!

THE *HUMANOIDS* WHOM YOU SEE LABORING FOR ME, ARE THE PERFECT SERVANTS! THEY NEVER STOP WORKING...NEVER TALK...NEVER REBEL! AND THEY PROTECT ME WITH ALL THEIR PLASTIC STRENGTH!

YEAH, I KNOW! I MET 'EM A FEW TIMES BEFORE!*

* AND SO DID *WE*, IN *ASTONISH* #63, 64, 65, ETC. ... STAN.

THEY ARE HELPING ME WITH MY GREATEST EXPERIMENT... THE SEARCH FOR SOME WAY TO CREATE NEW *LIFE!*

A POWERFUL LIQUID NUTRIENT IS FEEDING THESE GIANT, ARTIFICIAL EGGS 24 HOURS A DAY!

OBSERVE HOW NEW *WARRIOR HUMANOIDS* HATCH FROM THOSE EGGS CONSTANTLY! A PITY THEY ARE MERELY *ARTIFICIAL* CREATURES!

BUT, THEY WERE CREATED FOR *COMBAT!* SEE HOW THEY BATTLE EACH OTHER AS SOON AS THEY ARE HATCHED!

SO, YOU SEE... WITH MY GENIUS, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ALL *MANKIND* BECOMES MY SLAVE! AND *YOU* SHALL BE THE LEADER OF MY WARRIOR GUARD!

MISTER, I'VE SEEN *ENOUGH!* MAYBE I'VE GOT NO USE FOR THE HUMAN RACE, BUT I AIN'T GONNA LET A CREEP LIKE *YOU*... *HEY!* WHAT'S *HAPPENIN'* TO ME?!

YOU'RE MERELY BEING TAUGHT *NEVER* TO DEFY ME!

ALL THE TIME YOU STOOD NEXT TO ME, YOU WERE INHALING A POWERFUL, ODORLESS *SLEEP GAS*, AGAINST WHICH *I* HAVE BEEN IMMUNIZED! YOU INHALED ENOUGH TO HAVE FELLED A HERD OF *ELEPHANTS* LONG BEFORE THIS!

WHEN YOU AWAKE, I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR FIRST *COMMANDS!*

MEANWHILE, HALF-WAY AROUND THE GLOBE, GENERAL ROSS LEADS A TENSE TASK FORCE INTO THE HULK'S NOW-DEMOLISHED CAVE...!

CAREFUL! HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE!

THE HULK MUST BE BURIED UNDER THE DEBRIS! BUT WE'LL DIG UNTIL WE *FIND* HIM!

THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT...AND THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM *HERE!* HE *MUST* BE DEAD! BUT, NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW THEY ALSO KILLED *BRUCE BANNER* AT THE SAME TIME!

I WON'T BELIEVE THE HULK IS DEAD UNTIL WE FIND THE BODY! HE'S FOOLED US TOO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST! HE'S TOO STRONG...TOO POWERFUL...HE CAN SURVIVE ALMOST *ANYTHING!*

NOTHING COULD HAVE SURVIVED A BARRAGE LIKE THAT!

MAJOR TALBOT DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE *BULLET* IN HIS SKULL...HOW CLOSE TO DEATH HE REALLY *IS!*

LOOK HERE! ALL THIS *SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT*... IN THE CAVE OF A BRUTE LIKE THE *HULK!* IT DOESN'T ADD UP...UNLESS...!

UNLESS THIS CAVE BELONGED TO *TWO* MEN...THE HULK, AND *BRUCE BANNER!*

JONES, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T PROVE IT, I *KNOW* THERE WAS A TIE-IN BETWEEN THE HULK AND BANNER, BEFORE BANNER DIED!

WE NEVER *DID* FIND BANNER'S BODY! THE *HULK* MUST HAVE MADE OFF WITH IT! DID HE BRING IT *HERE?* YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME CLEAN, BOY!

I-I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!

RICK JONES HOLDS THE *KEY* TO THIS IN SOME WAY, SIR! BOTH THE HULK AND BANNER WERE CONNECTED WITH HIM! I WONDER...CAN THE HULK BE A PRODUCT OF ONE OF BANNER'S SECRET EXPERIMENTS??

BY *THUNDER!!* I NEVER *THOUGHT* OF THAT, TALBOT!!

FOR ALL WE KNOW, THE HULK *HIMSELF* MIGHT BE A *SUPER-ROBOT,* DEVELOPED BY BRUCE BANNER!

TAKE JONES INTO CUSTODY! I WANT HIM HELD FOR QUESTIONING!

YES, SIR!

LET'S GO, SON!

IF..IF THE HULK IS DEAD... NOTHING MATTERS ANY MORE!

AND, IN A VERY SPECIAL BUILDING, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROME...

HERE, IN THE ETERNAL CITY, I HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT HIDEOUT!

TO THE UNSUSPECTING THRONGS PASSING BELOW, THIS IS AN INNOCENT-LOOKING BUILDING WHICH HOUSES AN EXPENSIVE *ART GALLERY!*

YET, HOW LITTLE THEY KNOW OF THE *REAL* TREASURES WHICH ARE LOCKED WITHIN THESE SILENT HALLS!

BUT, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO CHECK ON THE *HULK* AGAIN! I MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING HIM COMPLETELY UNDER MY CONTROL!

THERE IS STILL MUCH ABOUT HIM THAT PUZZLES ME! HIS INTELLIGENCE SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED SINCE FIRST I SAW HIM! I MUST LEARN *WHY!*

AND, I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHY HE SAID THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT IN THAT CAVE WAS *HIS!* BUT, TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT LATER!

HE CANNOT ESCAPE ME!

THEN, JUST AS THE *LEADER* TURNS AND EXITS FROM THE ROOM...

HE WILL SLEEP FOR AT LEAST TWO HOURS LONGER! NO HUMAN BODY COULD THROW OFF THE EFFECTS OF SO MUCH SLEEP GAS IN LESS TIME!

BUT, EVEN HIS BRILLIANT CAPTOR CANNOT GUESS HOW POWERFUL THE *HULK'S* BODY REALLY IS... AS HE STIRS.. AND AWAKES..!

HOWEVER, THE SLEEP GAS, WHICH HIS TITANIC LUNGS SHRUGGED OFF IN RECORD TIME, HAD AN UNEXPECTED EFFECT ON THE GREEN GOLIATH... ONE WHICH COULD PROVE *FATAL..!*

THE GAS SET OFF A *REACTION!* MY BODY CHEMISTRY IS CHANGING... CHANGING BACK TO *BRUCE BANNER!!*

IF THE CHANGE OCCURS, I'LL DIE *INSTANTLY!!* I'VE GOT TO *STOP* IT!

IT'S HAPPENING SLOWLY!! I'VE STILL GOT *TIME!* PRECIOUS TIME ... BUT, WHAT CAN I *DO* WITH IT??

I NEED SPECIAL MACHINES... GAMMA RAY DEVICES... CHEMICALS!! WITHOUT THEM, I'M *LOST!* MAYBE HERE... IN THE *LEADER'S* LABORATORY..!

THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT I CAN *USE!* IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO CHANGE THE EQUIPMENT ... AND MY FINGERS ARE TOO BLUNT ... I COULDN'T *DO* IT!!

A MILLION BUCKS WORTH OF TUBES, WIRES AND ELECTRONIC JUNK... AND *NOTHING* THAT CAN SAVE ME FROM MAKING THE *LAST* CHANGE OF MY LIFE!!

CRASH!

WELL, IF I GOTTA GO... I'LL TAKE HALF OF THIS CRUMMY PLACE *WITH* ME!

IT'S NOT *RIGHT*... NOT *FAIR!!* I'VE ACCOMPLISHED *NOTHING!* IT'S ALL BEEN A *WASTE!*

IT *CAN'T* END LIKE THIS ... I WON'T *LET* IT!!

FLOUNDERING DESPERATELY... STRIKING OUT SAVAGELY ... THE HULK'S FINGERS ACCIDENTALLY COME IN CONTACT WITH A FATEFUL BUTTON ON THE WALL ... !!

RRRRRRR

THAT BUTTON... *NOW* WHAT'D I DO??

JUST AS THE HULK TOUCHES THE CRUCIAL BUTTON, THE *LEADER* OCCUPIES HIMSELF WITH STILL ANOTHER FANTASTIC EXPERIMENT...

AFTER I GAIN CONTROL OF EARTH'S *SURFACE*, I'LL ATTACK THE UNDER-SEA LEGIONS OF *SUB-MARINER'S* KINGDOM!

AND FOR *THAT* TASK, I'LL NEED *AMPHIBIOUS* HUMANOIDS... SUCH AS THESE BASIC PROTOTYPES!

BUT THEN...

RRRRRRRRR

THE TAKE-OVER ALARM SYSTEM! SOMETHING SERIOUS HAS OCCURRED IN THE LAB!

IT MUST BE THE *HULK!* HE'S *AWAKE*... AND ON A *RAMPAGE!*

I WAS *RIGHT!* HE SLID MY SLIDING STEEL WALL BACK... BY *HAND!* HE'S BROKEN INTO MY *STATUE GALLERY!*

I MUST GET HIM BACK UNDER MY CONTROL! IF HE ISN'T STOPPED, HE CAN CAUSE UNTOLD *DAMAGE!*

IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO LEARN THE LITTLE *SECRET* OF MY GIANT PIECES OF SCULPTURE!

AND, AS THE *LEADER* SKILLFULLY OPERATES HIS MASTER ELECTRONIC GUIDANCE MACHINES...

THEY'RE *NOT* STATUES!! THEY'RE CAMOUFLAGED *HUMANOIDS*... COMING *AT* ME!

I CAN'T LET 'EM SLOW ME DOWN *NOW*... I'LL BE CHANGING BACK TO *BANNER* IN MINUTES!

BUT... EVEN IF I BEAT 'EM ALL ...IT CAN'T HELP ME!

NOTHING I DO CAN STOP THE CHANGE NOW!! I'M JUST HANGING ON! ITS ALL FOR *NOTHING!*

AWRIGHT... COME AN' *GET* ME!! WHAT'S THE *DIFFERENCE?* IF I *WANTED* TO, I COULD TAKE ALL *THREE* OF YA IN ONE SWAT!

MY HEAD'S BEGINNING TO THROB! THAT MEANS MY TIME'S ALMOST RUN OUT...!

NO *WONDER* HE POINTED THAT CLUB AT ME... IT'S SOME KINDA *RAY* BLASTER! AN *HOUR* AGO I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE *FELT* IT!

ZZATT!

BUT *NOW*... I'M LOSING MY STRENGTH *FAST*... IF ONLY I COULD *STOP* MYSELF...!!

AND THEN, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* BEGINS THE GRIMMEST BATTLE OF HIS LIFE! IGNORING HIS INHUMAN ADVERSARIES... OBLIVIOUS TO ALL ELSE... HE SINKS TO THE FLOOR... MUSCLES TENSED... HIS BRAIN ON FIRE... DETERMINED TO *WILL* HIMSELF TO REMAIN... THE *HULK!*

SO STRONG IS HIS RESOLVE.. SO UNSHAKABLE HIS WILL POWER... THAT THE DESPERATE FLOW OF ENERGY FROM HIS OWN BRAIN ACTUALLY STRENGTHENS THE MUSCLES OF HIS BODY..!

I MUSTN'T CHANGE... I WON'T *LET* MYSELF CHANGE..!!

FOR... IF I CHANGE... I *DIE!!*

NEXT ISH, OUR *HULK* SERIES TAKES OFF IN A SOMEWHAT NEW DIRECTION! WE DON'T WANT TO REVEAL ANY SECRETS NOW, BUT IF YOU HAPPEN TO BUY IT, WE DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE SORRY! *NUFF SAID!*

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

TALES TO ASTONISH

73 NOV

"ANOTHER WORLD, ANOTHER FOE!"

"BY FORCE OF ARMS!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"ANOTHER WORLD, ANOTHER FOE!"

IGNORING THE *LEADER'S* BAND OF *HUMANOIDS* WHO ATTACK HIM WITH STRANGE, STAGGERING STUN RAYS, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* --STRONGEST LIVING MORTAL TO STRIDE THE EARTH--HARDLY *FEELS* THEIR ATTACK AS HE USES ALL HIS TREMENDOUS *WILL POWER* TO STOP HIMSELF FROM CHANGING BACK TO *BRUCE BANNER!* FOR, MINUS THE HULK'S STRENGTH, THE BULLET IN BANNER'S BRAIN WILL INSTANTLY *DESTROY* HIM!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET **STAN LEE'S** SCRIPT!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET **JACK KIRBY'S** LAYOUTS!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET **BOB POWELL'S** ART!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET **ARTIE SIMEK'S** --EH--

LET'S SEE NOW, WHAT *DID* **ARTIE** DO?

PRESENTED WITH PRIDE ESPECIALLY FOR *YOU*, THE GREAT NEW *MARVEL* BREED OF READER!

RELENTLESSLY, THE EMOTIONLESS HUMANOIDS CONTINUE TO POUND THE GREEN GOLIATH WITH THEIR STAGGERING RAYS--UNTIL, FINALLY--

IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T KEEP CONCENTRATING ON PREVENTING THE ***CHANGE***--NOT WITH THOSE BLASTED ***BOLTS*** HITTING ME EVERY SECOND!

BUT, EVERY TIME MY ATTENTION IS DISTRACTED--I GET ***WEAKER***--I GET CLOSER TO BECOMING BRUCE BANNER...

--AND ***THAT*** BRINGS ME CLOSER TO--MY ***FINISH!***

WHAT'S THE ***USE?***? WHY KEEP TRYING? IT'S PROBABLY THE BEST THING THAT COULD ***HAPPEN*** TO ME!

I'M NO GOOD TO ***ANYONE*** --INCLUDING ***MYSELF!*** THE WORLD HATES ME--FEARS ME--ONLY ***ANOTHER*** MISFIT, LIKE THE ***LEADER,*** WOULD WANT TO BE MY ALLY!

AS FOR THE ***LEADER*** HIMSELF, WE FIND HIM AT THAT VERY MOMENT, FRANTICALLY RACING TO THE SCENE...

THE DAMAGE IS UNBELIEVABLE! EVEN MY ***HUMANOIDS*** CAN'T STOP THE HULK!

ENOUGH! RETURN TO YOUR STATIONS! ***I*** SHALL DEAL WITH HIM MYSELF!

STRANGE! HE SEEMS TO BE ***COLLAPSING!*** AND YET, IT ISN'T FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE STUN RAYS!

I CAN FEEL MY OWN BODY *TINGLING*-- AS THOUGH THE *GAMMA RAY FORCE* WITHIN ME, WHICH TURNED ME INTO WHAT I AM, IS HAVING SOME SORT OF EFFECT UPON THE *HULK!*

AS I WALK *AWAY* FROM HIM, THE TINGLING *CEASES!* I CAN DELAY NO LONGER-- I MUST EXAMINE HIM AGAIN! IF I'M EVER TO *CONTROL* HIM, I MUST LEARN HIS *SECRET!*

ALAS, EVEN THE BRILLIANT *LEADER* CANNOT SUSPECT THAT THE GAMMA RAY ENERGY FROM HIS OWN BODY HAS PREVENTED THE HULK FROM MAKING WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS *FINAL* CHANGE!

THUS, MINUTES LATER...

REMAIN AS YOU ARE TILL I CHOOSE TO SUMMON YOU AGAIN!

MY *UNDISGUISED* HUMANOIDS WILL BE ALL I REQUIRE FOR MY NEXT TASK!

ONLY AN *ARTIFICIAL* BEING, WHO CAN FEEL NO SENSATION OF STRESS OR STRAIN COULD CARRY THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* WITH SUCH SEEMING EASE!

AND THEN, UPON THE OPERATING TABLE, ONE OF THE MOST FATEFUL INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE HULK OCCURS, AS THE LEADER NOTICES...

MY X-RAYS REVEAL A *BULLET*-- LODGED WITHIN HIS SKULL! NO SURGEON ON EARTH COULD REMOVE IT WITHOUT KILLING THE PATIENT!

BUT *I* HAVE *OTHER* METHODS!

BY MEANS OF MY GAMMA RAY LASER-TYPE BEAM, I CAN INSTANTANEOUSLY *DISSOLVE* THE SHELL, WITHOUT DAMAGING HIS BRAIN TISSUE!

IT'S *DONE!* AND NOW, I'LL BATHE HIM WITH A FULL-INTENSITY SHOWER OF GAMMA RAYS-- TO BRING HIM BACK TO HIS FULL STRENGTH!

SOMETHING *HAPPENING*-- I-I FEEL DIFFERENT--NEVER HAD SUCH A CONCENTRATED AMOUNT OF GAMMA RAYS BEFORE--!

HE'S MUTTERING DELIRIOUSLY! BUT-- I WONDER IF THIS TREATMENT *WILL* CHANGE HIM IN SOME WAY?

A SHORT TIME LATER, THE HEAVY EYELIDS OF THE *HULK* SLOWLY OPEN, AND THEN...

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN *EVER!* I EXPECTED YOU TO BE UNCONSCIOUS FOR *DAYS*, BUT IT'S BEEN LESS THAN AN *HOUR!*

UNCONSCIOUS?? SCAR?? WHAT *HAPPENED??* *TALK*--!

AND THE LASER BEAM SCAR-- IT'S ALREADY DISAPPEARED!

I DIDN'T CHANGE BACK TO BANNER! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT *WHY!*

THEN, AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION BY THE LEADER...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO *LIVE* WITH THAT BULLET--BUT IT'LL BOTHER YOU NO LONGER!

WITHOUT THAT *SHELL* IN MY SKULL, I DON'T HAVE TO FEAR TURNING INTO BRUCE BANNER AGAIN! BUT-- THE GAMMA RAY DOSE HE GAVE ME-- IT WAS MORE THAN I EVER DARED TAKE BEFORE--

I ALWAYS FEARED IF I RECEIVED SUCH A STAGGERING AMOUNT IT WOULD *SEAL MY IDENTITY!* I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO BECOME *BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN!

WHAT *IRONY!* NOW THAT IT'S *SAFE* FOR ME TO REVERT TO MY NORMAL FORM--I *CAN'T!* I'M DESTINED TO *REMAIN* THE HULK--*FOREVER!* WITH BANNER'S *BRAIN!*

HE NEVER *SUSPECTED* I REALLY HAD *TWO* IDENTITIES! NOW, I'M JUST LIKE *HE* IS-- A GREEN-SKINNED FREAK! I'LL NEVER BE NORMAL AGAIN!

NEVER FORGET THAT IT WAS *I* WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE! I WAS *I* WHO REMOVED THAT DEADLY BULLET! YOU ARE ETERNALLY IN MY *DEBT!*

REPORT TO ME IN MY LABORATORY IN FIVE MINUTES!

HE'S *RIGHT!* I *DO* OWE HIM MY LIFE! I CAN'T EVER CHANGE *THAT!*

BUT--WHAT KIND OF LIFE *IS* IT?? I'M DOOMED TO REMAIN THE MOST HATED--THE MOST FEARED CREATURE TO WALK THE EARTH--TO SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS AND NIGHTS AS A GROTESQUE CARICATURE OF A HUMAN BEING--AS AN UGLY, RAMPAGING *HULK!*

MINUTES LATER, IN THE UNDERGROUND LABORATORY OF THE ONLY OTHER GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN ON EARTH...

THE TESTS ARE *WORTHLESS!* THERE'S **NO** WAY TO MEASURE HIS STRENGTH! THERE IS *NOTHING* HE CANNOT DO! I CANNOT BUILD A DEVICE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TEST HIM WITH!

EVEN THE COMBINED ELECTRICAL CHARGES OF THOSE GIANT *ELECTRODES* CANNOT HARM HIM!

AND, HE CAN WITHSTAND THE BONE-CRUSHING PRESSURE OF 100 G's WITH EASE! WITH SUCH AN ALLY, I CANNOT ONLY CONQUER THE EARTH, BUT THE ENTIRE *GALAXY!*

EVEN THE *ELEMENTS* DON'T SEEM TO AFFECT HIM! HE SHRUGS OFF THE MOST EXTREME TEMPERATURES OF HEAT AND FREEZING AS THOUGH THEY'RE *NOTHING!*

YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME *OUT* NOW! YOU'VE BEEN UNDER WATER FOR A HALF-HOUR *ALREADY* WITHOUT TAKING A BREATH! IT PROVES YOUR *LUNGS* ARE AS POWERFUL AS YOUR LIMBS!

I FEEL EVEN *STRONGER* THAN EVER BEFORE! IT MUST BE DUE TO THE ADDITIONAL GAMMA RAYS I ABSORBED!

NOW THAT YOU'RE CONVINCED I CAN PUNCH MY WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG, WHAT'S *BEHIND* ALL THOSE TESTS? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING FOR ME TO *DO*?

YOU ARE GOING TO WIN ME THE GREATEST PRIZE IN THE GALAXY!

YEAH? I'M FROM *MISSOURI*, MISTER!

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR MOCKING ME-- BUT LISTEN, WHILE I EXPLAIN...

SOME TIME AGO, WHILE MAKING A TELESCOPIC STUDY OF THE MOON, I BECAME INTRIGUED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS "BLUE AREA" WHICH I DISCOVERED! *

*ALSO DISCOVERED BY THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* MANY MONTHS AGO, REMEMBER? --STAN.

"WEEKS BEFORE THE AMERICANS OR RUSSIANS SENT *THEIR* SATELLITES, I SENT MY *OWN* INTO SPACE TO PROBE THE AREA!"

"IT WAS THERE THAT I MADE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF ALL--"

THERE IS *INTELLIGENT LIFE* BELOW...!

"SETTING MY CAMERA LENS ON THE EXTREME CLOSE-UP POSITION, I SAW A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY BEING! BY MERELY OBSERVING HIS SCIENTIFIC DEVICES, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE IS MANY TIMES THE SUPERIOR OF ANY MERE *MAN*!"

"MY CAMERA FOLLOWED HIM ON HIS JOURNEY FROM PLANET TO PLANET! ALL HE DID WAS TRAVEL HIS LONELY ROUTE, STOPPING FROM TIME TO TIME TO LOOK ABOUT HIM! IT WAS AS IF HIS ONLY MISSION IS TO-- *WATCH*!"

"IT BECAME AN ***OBSESSION*** WITH ME! I HAD TO LEARN WHERE HE WAS FROM! I HAD TO DISCOVER HIS ***HOME PLANET!*** FOR DAYS I PROBED THE HEAVENS, CREATING STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL TELESCOPIC LENSES EACH TIME, UNTIL FINALLY-- I ***FOUND*** IT! A PLANET AT THE FURTHEST END OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE--A PLANET CONTAINING THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC WONDERS OF ALL TIME!"

"I KNEW THAT IF I COULD SEIZE SOME OF THOSE SCIENTIFIC TREASURES, I COULD HAVE POWER SUCH AS NO HUMAN HAS EVER DREAMED OF POSSESSING! AND ***YOU*** SHALL GET THEM FOR ME!"

YEAH? AND HOW DO I ***GET*** THERE? I CAN JUMP HIGHER THAN ***ANYBODY***-- BUT PLANET HOPPING'S A LITTLE OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

REMEMBER, JUST AS THE GAMMA RAYS MADE YOUR ***BODY*** THE STRONGEST EVER KNOWN, IT HAS MADE MY ***BRAIN*** THE MOST BRILLIANT ON EARTH! I HAVE DEVISED A METHOD FOR YOU!

HE STILL THINKS OF ME AS A DIM-WITTED BRUTE! I'LL LET HIM ***CONTINUE*** TO DO SO! THE FACT THAT I ACTUALLY POSSESS THE BRAIN OF ***DR. BRUCE BANNER,*** ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, WILL REMAIN ***MY*** SECRET! MINE--AND RICK JONES'!

WHAT ***IS*** THIS THING? WHAT DOES IT DO?

YOU SHALL LEARN RIGHT ***NOW***--!

THE PLANET I WANT TO SEND YOU TO IS SO FAR DISTANT THAT EVEN THE SPEED OF ***LIGHT*** CANNOT REACH IT IN A LIFETIME! BUT, THE SPEED OF ***THOUGHT*** IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT LIMIT!

SURE IT IS! BUT, NOBODY CAN ***TRAVEL*** THAT WAY!

THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE ***WRONG,*** MY TITANIC ALLY!

I SHALL CONVERT YOUR PHYSICAL SELF INTO A MICRO-MOLECULAR PATTERN FLOW! YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A FLEETING ***THOUGHT WAVE,*** BEAMED DIRECTLY INTO SPACE!

IF HE CAN ***DO*** IT, HE'S MORE OF A GENIUS THAN HE SAYS!

REMAIN PERFECTLY MOTIONLESS NOW...!

THE CORRECT PLANETARY COORDINATES WERE PLACED IN YOUR BRAIN WHILE YOU SLEPT! THERE IS NO REASON TO DELAY ANY LONGER....!

BUT-- IF I *DO* GET THERE-- *THEN* WHAT? AND HOW DO I GET *BACK*??

IT IS TOO *LATE* FOR QUESTIONS! FAREWELL, HULK!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, AN INDESCRIBABLY SWIFT *THOUGHT PATTERN* SPEEDS THRU THE GALAXY --INVISIBLE-- SILENT-- UNSTOPPABLE--UNTIL--

THERE WAS NO SENSATION OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME! AND YET-- I'M ON ANOTHER WORLD! THE LEADER *DID* IT!

WELCOME-- TO THE PLANET OF-- THE *WATCHER*! I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL!

YOU NEED NOT BE STARTLED! I HAVE AN *ETERNITY* TO STAND AND WATCH--THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING I DO NOT SEE--ALMOST NOTHING I DO NOT KNOW! FOR I AM THE *WATCHER*!

HE WAS *EXPECTING* ME! THE LEADER WAS RIGHT--NO MORTAL MAN CAN BE HIS EQUAL! BUT-- WHAT DO I DO *NOW*??

YOU NEED FEAR NOTHING! I AM FORBIDDEN TO INTERFERE WITH THE ACTS OF OTHERS! THOUGH I HAVE THE POWER TO SHATTER PLANETS-- TO MAKE *GALAXIES* TREMBLE-- I MAY ONLY STAND--AND WATCH!

BENEATH THE BRUTAL FORM OF THE *HULK*, THE KEEN, CURIOUS MIND OF *DR. BANNER* SEETHES WITH EXCITEMENT! LIKE A CHILD, LET LOOSE IN SOME ENCHANTED WONDERLAND, HE HUNGERS TO TAKE IN ALL THE STRANGE, UNEARTHLY SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE FANTASTIC PLANET ON WHICH HE FINDS HIMSELF!

YOU MAY ROAM AT WILL, OBSERVING ALL THAT YOU DESIRE! I AM BOUND TO OFFER YOU NO INTERFERENCE!

MECHANICAL LIFE FORMS--FLORA AND FAUNA SUCH AS NO MAN COULD HAVE EVER *DREAMED* OF!! THIS WORLD IS A SCIENTIFIC STOREHOUSE OF *TREASURES* BEYOND MEASURE!

ALMOST *NONE* OF THE ARTIFACTS YOU GAZE UPON ARE NATIVE TO THIS PLANET! THEY HAVE ALL BEEN *BROUGHT* HERE--FOR FURTHER STUDY--BY MYSELF! THEY ARE PART OF MY COLLECTION--A COLLECTION I HAVE BEEN GATHERING FOR UNTOLD AGES!

THEY'RE TOTALLY BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING! I CAN JUST BARELY *GUESS* THEIR PURPOSES--THEIR FUNCTIONS!

THEN SUDDENLY, A MENTAL COMMAND RINGS OUT IN THE STILL-REELING BRAIN OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK--THE COMMAND OF--THE *LEADER!*

I AM WITH YOU STILL--I CAN SEE WHAT YOU SEE--HEAR WHAT YOU HEAR! MY PLAN IS BEARING FRUIT!

OF ALL THE MACHINES HERE-- ONLY **ONE** OF THEM IS THE **ULTIMATE** MACHINE! YOU ARE TO **BRING** ME THAT ONE!

JUST LIKE **THAT,** HUH? AND WHAT ABOUT THE **WATCHER** ?

WE **BOTH** KNOW HE WILL NOT TRY TO STOP YOU! HE IS FORBIDDEN TO INTERFERE IN THE ACTS OF ANY OTHER BEINGS! THAT **ULTIMATE MACHINE** CAN MAKE ME THE ABSOLUTE MASTER OF TIME AND SPACE!

YOU MUST NOT FAIL ME NOW! **REMEMBER**-- YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY **LIFE!** IT IS A DEBT THAT **MUST** BE PAID!

HE'LL NEVER LET ME FORGET THAT! BUT, WHY **SHOULD** I FORGET IT? I **DO** OWE HIM MY LIFE! OF ALL MANKIND, ONLY **HE** HAS EVER HELPED ME! ONLY HE-- AND ONE OTHER--A BRAVE, LOYAL TEEN-AGER WHOM I HAD ALL BUT FORGOTTEN'

THAT RADIANT SPHERE HANGING IN THE AIR-- **THAT'S** THE ONE! YOU MUST BRING IT TO ME! IT MUST BE **MINE!**

IT DOESN'T **LOOK** LIKE MUCH! WHY COULDN'T **YOU** COME HERE AND GET IT YOURSELF? WHY'D YOU NEED **ME?**

BECAUSE THERE IS ONE SMALL DETAIL I DID NOT TELL YOU! ONE SIMPLE FACT I LEFT FOR THE LAST--THE REASON THAT ONLY **YOUR** STRENGTH COULD PREVAIL....!

YEAH? WHAT'S **THAT?**

IN MY TELESCOPE I SAW **ANOTHER**--FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD, **ALSO** COMING TO SEIZE THE ULTIMATE MACHINE! IN FACT--THERE HE IS **NOW!**

WHOOM

-UNHHHH-!

HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE IN THE GALAXY! AND, ONLY BY DEFEATING **HIM** CAN YOU RETURN TO EARTH! EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE NEXT FEW SECONDS!

WE WISH WE COULD TELL YOU HOW EXCITED WE ARE ABOUT OUR FUTURE EPISODES! ALTHOUGH THE **HULK** ALREADY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR SERIES OF ALL TIME, WE FEEL THAT THE TREMENDOUS SURPRISES IN STORE FOR YOU WILL BE TALKED ABOUT AS LONG AS MARVELDOM ENDURES! AND, BEGINNING NEXT ISH, WE SHALL **PROVE** IT! 'NUFF SAID!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

74 DEC

TA... ASTONISH

"WHEN FAILS THE QUEST!"

"THE WISDOM OF THE WATCHER!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THE WISDOM OF The WATCHER!"

SO MUCH HAPPENED LAST ISH THAT THIS IS A TOUGH ONE TO EXPLAIN... SO BEAR WITH US, HUH?

THE EVIL *LEADER* HAS SENT OL' GREEN SKIN TO THE HOME PLANET OF THE *WATCHER*, BY MEANS OF THOUGHT PATTERN PROJECTION! PURPOSE? TO BRING BACK THE WATCHER'S GREATEST SCIENTIFIC TREASURE! BUT, ANOTHER CREATURE FROM ANOTHER WORLD HAS THE SAME OBJECTIVE, AND SO THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* FINDS HIMSELF BATTLING THE MOST POWERFUL FIGHTER IN THE KNOWN GALAXY...!

SO *THIS* IS WHY THE LEADER SENT ME! HE KNEW ONLY *MY STRENGTH* WOULD HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THIS SCALY-SKINNED POWERHOUSE!

DREAMED UP BY: STAN LEE!
DESIGNED BY: JACK KIRBY!
DRAWN BY: BOB POWELL!
DELINEATED BY: MICKEY DEMEO!
DOODLED BY: S. ROSEN

I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE... WHERE YOU'RE FROM...I CAN LICK ANYTHING ON EARTH... AND ANYTHING *OFF* IT, TOO!

I AM THE CHAMPION OF MY ENTIRE *WORLD!* YOU'VE NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE AS STRONG AS *ME* BEFORE!

THE *WATCHER* MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO LET US UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGE! BIG DEAL! I BELIEVE IN *ACTION*...NOT TALK!

THHOKK!!

NO ONE EVER BOUNCED BACK FROM ONE OF *MY* PUNCHES LIKE THAT BEFORE! THIS GUY IS AS STRONG AS HE *SAYS*

MY PEOPLE HAVE *BRED* ME ONLY FOR BATTLE! I AM ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE WINDS OF ANDROMEDA... THE STORMS OF SATURN... THE PLANET-SHAKING CATACLYSMS OF THE MILKY WAY...

AND *NOW* YOU'RE GONNA BE PULVERIZED BY THE BONE-CRUSHIN' PUNCHES OF THE *HULK!*

MEANWHILE, IN GRIM SILENCE, THE OMNISCIENT *WATCHER* OBSERVES EVERY MOVE, RECORDS EVERY SOUND...

I AM PLEDGED NEVER TO INTERFERE WITH ANOTHER'S BATTLES! I MAY ONLY ACT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE MY OWN SAFETY...

AND YET, IF MY SCIENTIFIC DEVICES ARE SMASHED IN THE STRUGGLE, THEN MY *OWN* POWERS MAY BE CURTAILED!

THUS, IT IS MY DUTY TO *TRANSFER* THE COMBATANTS TO ANOTHER AREA, WHERE THE ONLY DAMAGE THEY CAN DO WILL BE TO *THEMSELVES!*

AT THE MEREST GESTURE FROM THE *WATCHER'S* HAND, A BOLT OF SHEER, EXTRA-SPATIAL *ENERGY* ENGULFS THE HULK AND HIS AWESOME FOE...FREEZING THEIR ACTION AS THOUGH TIME ITSELF HAS SUDDENLY STOOD STILL!

AND, WHEN THE AURA FINALLY FADES, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A STRANGE AND BARREN PLACE -- SEEMINGLY REMOVED FROM ANYTHING THAT LIVES... TOTALLY ALONE... EXCEPT FOR THE UN-SEEN EYES OF... THE *WATCHER!*

LOOKS LIKE THE WATCHER PUT US IN A LONELY SPOT SO NOBODY WILL *HEAR* IT WHEN YOU CALL FOR HELP!

IT IS WHISPERED IN THE GALAXY THAT THE CREATURES OF *EARTH* FEEL THEY ARE SUPERIOR TO ALL! YOU ARE THE LIVING *PROOF* OF THAT BELIEF, FOOL-HARDY ONE!

BUT NOW, AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT IN ETERNITY, I SHALL *SHATTER* THAT LEGEND BY SMASHING YOU INTO TOTAL *LIFELESSNESS!*

EVEN THOUGH YOU MASKED IT WITH A LOT OF BIG WORDS, THAT WAS STILL A *THREAT!* AND THE HULK DON'T *LIKE* THREATS!

IT'S *UNCANNY!* EVEN THOUGH I HAVE THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER ONCE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF *THINKING* LIKE THE *HULK!*

IT'S AS THOUGH THE *SAVAGE* PART OF ME IS TAKING CONTROL! I REVEL IN BATTLE... I LONG FOR THE EXCITEMENT OF COMBAT! I GLORY IN POSSESSING THE POWER OF... THE *HULK!*

NOW TO *END* THIS BATTLE AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD BEGUN! TIME IS TOO *VALUABLE* TO WASTE ANY MORE OF IT ON A DULL-WITTED EARTHLING!

IF *THAT'S* THE BEST YOU CAN DO...

WHOOM!

...*FORGET IT!*

WHAT MANNER OF BEING *IS* HE? THERE SEEMS TO BE NO *LIMIT* TO HIS STRENGTH! IT TOOK COUNTLESS *AGES* TO BREED ONE AS MIGHTY AS I... BUT EARTH IS TOO *YOUNG* A PLANET.. HOW WAS THE *HULK* CREATED?!

YOUR STRENGTH SEEMS TO ACTUALLY EQUAL MY *OWN* HERE ON LAND... BUT, I WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO BE EQUALLY DESTRUCTIVE BENEATH THE *WATER!*

IT IS PLAIN TO SEE THAT YOU ARE *NOT* AMPHIBIOUS...THEREFORE THE ADVANTAGE SHALL NOW BE *MINE!*

SURE...UNTIL I GET MY *HANDS* ON YOU!

NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU MOCK ME! BENEATH THE SEA, I AM *SUPREME* SOON, THE TREASURES OF THE WATCHER SHALL BE *MINE!*

MAYBE I AIN'T AN *AMPHIBIAN*, BUT I CAN HOLD MY BREATH FOR *HOURS* UNDER WATER, BECAUSE MY *LUNGS* ARE AS STRONG AS THE REST OF ME!

SO, AS LONG AS HE EXPECTS TO BEAT ME BY *DROWNING* ME, HE'S IN FOR A REAL BIG SURPRISE!

HEY! THIS LOOKS LIKE SOME KINDA GIANT *CLAM!* JUST THE THING TO SLOW THAT LIVIN' LIZARD DOWN!

I SEE YOU *CAN* REMAIN UNDER WATER WITHOUT SUFFOCATING!

BUT STILL YOUR STRENGTH CANNOT MATCH *MINE* IN THIS WATERY WORLD!

UGHHHH!... NOW TO... *BLAST IT!* HE WAS TOO *FAST* FOR ME! HE'S A REGULAR OUTER-SPACE *SUB-MARINER!*

EVEN IF YOU *HAD* TRAPPED ME WITH THAT HUNGRY SHELL, IT WOULD HAVE DONE YOU NO GOOD! I COULD BREAK AWAY FROM IT WITH *EASE!*

AND SOMETHIN' TELLS ME HE AIN'T *KIDDING!*

MY RACE HAS LONGED TO POSSESS THE TREASURES OF THE WATCHER FOR AEONS! WE WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF THEM *NOW*... NOT BY A BRAINLESS, MUSCLE-BOUND FREAK FROM EARTH!

ONLY *I* HAVE THE ABILITY TO ATTACK UNDER THE SEA WITHOUT BEING HAMPERED BY THE BONE-CRUSHING *WATER PRESSURE!*

I CAN'T MOVE NEARLY AS FAST AS *HE* CAN IN THIS PEA SOUP! AS LONG AS WE'RE DOWN HERE, HE *DOES* HAVE THE EDGE, ALL RIGHT!

THERE! THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR YOU, HULK!

EVEN *YOUR* BRUTISH STRENGTH CAN'T SAVE YOU NOW! YOU'LL REMAIN PINNED DOWN THERE UNTIL YOU CAN HOLD YOUR BREATH NO LONGER!

FOR, NO MATTER *HOW* STRONG YOUR LUNGS ARE, EVEN *THEY* MUST HAVE THEIR LIMIT!

HE'S *RIGHT!* I CAN'T STAY HERE *FOREVER!* SOONER OR LATER, MY BREATH'LL GIVE OUT!

EVEN IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, YOU *SHOULD* FREE YOURSELF, IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO STOP ME FROM MAKING OFF WITH THE PRIZE...THE WATCHER'S GREATEST TREASURE!

THEY'LL SING OF MY VICTORY FOR AS LONG AS THE GALAXY ENDURES ...LONG AFTER EARTH IS NO MORE THAN A HALF-FORGOTTEN MEMORY!

I DON'T CARE TWO PINS ABOUT EARTH, OR VICTORY, OR WHO IN BLAZES THEY SING ABOUT! BUT *NOBODY'S* GETTIN' THE BEST OF THE *HULK!*

THE PART OF ME THAT'S STILL BRUCE BANNER AIN'T GONNA MEET HIS FINISH IN SOME FORSAKEN MUDHOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE! NOT IF THE *HULK* CAN HELP IT!

AND, ON THE SURFACE ...

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW! THE *WATCHER* IS FORBIDDEN TO INTERFERE WITH OTHER LIVING BEINGS, SO I CAN LOOT HIS TREASURES AT WILL!

SHOW YOURSELF, WATCHER! I KNOW YOU'RE THERE! I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN MY VICTORY! NOW I'VE COME TO CLAIM MY *SPOILS!*

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE ENTIRE LAKE SEEMS TO ERUPT WITH A THUNDEROUS, EAR-SPLITTING ROAR ...

WHAT WAS *THAT??!*

RRROOOOOM!!

SO POWERFUL IS THE ONRUSHING TORRENT OF WATER, THAT IT HURLS THE STARTLED LIZARD-LIKE CREATURE AGAINST THE STONE HILLS WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND TORNADOES!

UNHHHH! IT CAN'T BE THE WORK OF THE *WATCHER!* BUT, THEN... *WHO..???*

AND, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, HE LEARNS THE INCREDIBLE ANSWER ...

THE *HULK!!*

HE'S RIPPING APART THE VERY PIECE OF GROUND BENEATH ME!

KRAKK!

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED, SHAKEN ALIEN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE ...

YOU DID YOUR *WORST*, AND YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO STOP ME!

SO NOW, IT'S THE *HULK'S* TURN!

SEE WHAT I MEAN???

I PUT ENOUGH MUSCLE INTO THAT TOSS TO KEEP 'IM TRAVELLING FOR *DAYS!*

BUT, BEFORE HE CAN ZOOM ANY FURTHER FROM THE WATCHER'S PLANET, BOTH THE LIZARD CREATURE AND THE SLAB OF ROCK TO WHICH HE CLINGS, *VANISH* IN MID AIR!

FFFFT!

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO 'IM? I DIDN'T THROW HIM *THAT* HARD!

NO, BUT IT WAS HARD ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME THAT *YOU* WERE THE VICTOR!

THUS, SINCE THE BATTLE HAS ENDED, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SENDING HIM FORTH-WITH BACK TO HIS OWN PLANET!

THE *WATCHER'S* VOICE!

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING I COULDN'T *BEAT*, EITHER ON THE EARTH... OR OFF IT! I NEVER SAW ANYONE I DIDN'T WANNA TACKLE AND FIGHT TO THE FINISH WITH! BUT *YOU*... WHAT IS IT THAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT *YOU*??

I AM THE *WATCHER*! THAT IS *ENOUGH*! THAT ANSWERS ALL!

BUT I CAME HERE TO *GET* SOMETHING! AND I CAN'T EVEN LET *YOU* STOP ME! UNTIL I BRING IT BACK TO HIM, I'LL NEVER BE FREE OF THE *LEADER!*

EXPLANATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY! I SEE ALL! I KNOW ALL! I SHALL NOT INTERFERE WITH YOUR QUEST! DO WHAT YOU MUST!

IN FACT, I SHALL MAKE YOUR TASK *SIMPLER!* I CANNOT TOLERATE ALIEN PRESENCES NEAR ME FOR TOO LONG A PERIOD OF TIME! SO, COMPLETE YOUR MISSION AND *BEGONE!*

HE BROUGHT ME TO THIS HALL... WHERE HE KEEPS HIS SCIENTIFIC TREASURE... IN THE WINK OF AN EYE! IT'S LIKE ALL HE HAS TO DO IS *THINK* OF SOMETHING... AND IT *HAPPENS!*

I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU ARE THINKING! NO, I AM *NOT* ALL-POWERFUL! THE SEEMING MIRACLES I ACCOMPLISH ARE DONE THROUGH MASTERY OF A SCIENCE WHICH NO HUMAN BRAIN CAN EVEN REMOTELY COMPREHEND!

ALIEN

AND THEN, THE MENTAL IMAGE OF THE SUPER-BRAINED *LEADER* SEEMS TO WHISPER IN THE HULK'S SUB-CONSCIOUS, ACROSS A VOID OF COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS...

THE SUPREME MOMENT HAS COME! I CAN SEE WHAT YOU ARE SEEING, BY MENTALLY VIEWING ALL THROUGH YOUR OWN EYES!

YOU MUST SELECT ONLY THE ONE OBJECT I COMMAND YOU TO SELECT... THE ONE I VALUE ABOVE ALL ELSE!

THERE! THAT RADIANT SPHERE, HANGING IN THE AIR! *THAT* IS THE ONE I MUST HAVE!

TAKE IT, YOU LUMBERING FOOL! IT MUST BE *MINE!*

ALTHOUGH I COULD CRUSH HIM WITH ONE FINGER, I *MUST* OBEY HIM... I OWE HIM MY *LIFE!**

BUT ONCE THIS IS DONE, THE SLATE'LL BE WIPED CLEAN! AND THEN... *WATCH OUT!*

THIS IS WHAT I WANT... AND THERE'S NO IFS OR BUTS ABOUT IT!

MY *ULTIMATE MACHINE!* THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST DANGEROUS DEVICE OF ALL!

*AS WE EXPLAINED IN VIVID DETAIL LAST ISH, REMEMBER?.. STAN.

I CAN TAKE NO CHANCES OF THE WATCHER *STOPPING* YOU! I'LL REVERSE THE MENTAL THOUGHT PATTERN PROCESS AND RETURN YOU TO EARTH *IMMEDIATELY!*

WE *MADE* IT! I'M FADING AWAY!

BUT, AS THE MIGHTY GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH MAKES HIS ALMOST-INSTANTANEOUS TRANS-FERENCE, *ANOTHER* VOICE ECHOES IN HIS BRAIN... A DEEPER, MORE COMMANDING, MORE OMINOUS VOICE...

THE *LEADER* BELIEVES HE HAS BEATEN ME! SO BE IT! I CHOOSE TO ALLOW HIM TO KEEP THAT BELIEF! BUT, THE FINAL GAMBIT HAS NOT YET BEEN PLAYED!

THAT WAS THE *WATCHER*! WHAT DID HE *MEAN*? IT SOUNDED LIKE HE'S NOT *DONE* WITH US YET!

YOU'RE *BACK*! WITH THE *ULTIMATE MACHINE*! I'VE WON! *I'VE WON*!

BRUCE BANNER WOULDA GIVEN HIS EYETEETH TO KNOW WHAT THIS THING *IS*! BUT ME, ALL I WANNA DO IS GET *RID* OF IT... AND THAT GOES FOR THE *LEADER*, TOO!

GIVE IT TO ME! IT MUST BE MINE! ONLY *I* AM FIT TO POSSESS IT!

MY BRAIN IS THE MOST BRILLIANT OF ALL THE HUMAN RACE... JUST AS YOUR *BODY* IS THE MOST POWERFUL! BUT, ONCE I POSSESS *THIS*, EVEN YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH WILL BE OF NO FURTHER USE TO ME!

I'M GLAD YOU *SAID* THAT... BECAUSE THIS *FINISHES* US! THE SCORE IS *EVEN* NOW!

WE'LL BE FINISHED WHEN *I* SAY SO... NOT BEFORE! THE *ULTIMATE MACHINE* MAKES EVERYTHING THAT LIVES MY *SLAVE*!

WITHIN THIS PRICELESS OBJECT IS RECORDED *ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE*!

AND, ONCE THIS KNOWLEDGE IS MINE, I'LL BE *SUPREME*! I'LL EVEN BE THE MASTER OF THE *WATCHER* HIMSELF!

NOW *STAND BACK*! MY MOMENT HAS COME!

I OUGHTTA *STOP* HIM! I OUGHTTA RIP THAT THING FROM OFF HIS HEAD AND *SMASH* IT... BUT SOMETHING'S *STOPPING* ME!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, HULK... BUT THE ULTIMATE MACHINE HAS THE POWER TO *PROTECT ITSELF!* EVEN *YOU* CAN'T POSSIBLY DAMAGE IT!

AT LAST! I CAN FEEL THE KNOWLEDGE TEEMING INTO MY BRAIN! THE KNOWLEDGE OF A THOUSAND LONG-DEAD CIVILIZATIONS... A MILLION PLANETS... A BILLION YEARS...

BUT THEN...

NO!! NOT *THAT!* NO MORE! *NO MORE!*

SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING* TO HIM... SOMETHING *TERRIBLE..!*

NO MORE!

HE'S SILENT! IT'S AS THOUGH SOMETHING DRAINED EVERY BIT OF LIFE OUT OF HIM!

IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY AS TO STAGGER THE SENSES! ONE MINUTE THE *LEADER* IS SHOUTING IN TRIUMPH... AND THE NEXT, HIS RIGID FORM TOPPLES GROTESQUELY TO THE FLOOR...!

THEN, ONLY THE GUTTURAL VOICE OF THE MIGHTY *HULK* BREAKS THE GRIM, DEEPENING SILENCE! A VOICE WHICH MUTTERS...

HE'S *DEAD!*

NEVER HAVE BREATH-TAKING REVELATIONS COME AS FAST AND FURIOUSLY AS THOSE WHICH AWAIT YOU NEXT ISSUE! WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE IS MERELY PRELUDE...PRELUDE TO A NEW WORLD OF *FANTASY* WHICH IS ABOUT TO OPEN FOR THE HULK! BE HERE TO ENTER IT WITH HIM! 'NUFF SAID!

THE END

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

75 JAN

"NOT ALL MY POWER CAN SAVE ME!"

ALSO: PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER

"THE END OF THE QUEST!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"NOT ALL MY POWER CAN SAVE ME!"

THE *LEADER* IS *DEAD!*... KILLED BY THIS *ULTIMATE MACHINE* WHICH I TOOK FROM THE *WATCHER!*

SO I'M *FREE* AGAIN! I DON'T OWE ANYTHING TO *ANYONE!*

YEAH! THE HULK IS *FREE*... WITH THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE HUNTING ME...HOUNDING ME... HATING ME! I'M FREE... TO DO *WHAT??*

NO NEED FOR A ROLLICKING RESUMÉ THIS ISH... THE DIALOGUE ABOVE IS ALL ANY TRUE MARVELITE REQUIRES! SO NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WONDERMENT IS IN STORE FOR US!

WITH A TEAM LIKE THIS, YOU *KNOW* YOU'RE IN FOR ANOTHER *MARVEL CLASSIC!*

STORY: STAN LEE LAYOUTS: J. KIRBY
ILLUSTRATIONS: M. DEMEO
LETTERING: S. ROSEN
ENJOYING: THAT'S *YOUR* JOB, PUSSYCAT!

THE *LEADER* SAID THIS THING HELD ALL THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE GALAXY! IT MUSTA BEEN TOO MUCH FOR EVEN *HIS* BRAIN TO HANDLE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT *ME?* WHAT DO I DO *NOW?*

EVEN THOUGH I TURNED INTO THE *HULK*, I STILL HAVE *BRUCE BANNER'S* BRAIN... BUT, WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR ME TO *THINK* NOW?

IT'S AS THOUGH THE LIMITLESS POWER OF MY *BODY* IS OVERSHADOWING MY *MIND!*

BRUCE BANNER'S THOUGHTS SEEM STRANGE TO ME.. SHADOWY... AS IF THEY'RE SLOWLY FADING AWAY... GETTING HARDER TO HANG ONTO..!

BUT, WHO *CARES??!* I'D RATHER BE THE *HULK!* NOTHING CAN HURT ME... NOTHING CAN *STOP* ME! BANNER WAS JUST A *WEAKLING!*

BUT I'M TOP DOG *ANY-WHERE!*

THEN, WITH ONE INCREDIBLE LEAP THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS OF ANY MORTAL PROPEL THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH HIGH ABOVE THE ANCIENT CITY OF ROME...

I *HADDA* COME HERE, TO PAY THE LEADER BACK FOR SAVIN' MY LIFE! BUT THE DEBT'S *CANCELLED* NOW!

SO, I'M TAKIN' *OFF* AGAIN! I NEED *ROOM*... SPACE TO *MOVE* IN...*NOTHIN'S* GONNA FENCE ME IN AGAIN!

I DON'T CARE IF EVERYTHING THAT *LIVES* IS OUT TO GET ME! I'LL SMASH 'EM *ALL!* I CAN BEAT *ANYONE*... *ANYTHING!*

I HOPE I *NEVER* TURN INTO BANNER AGAIN! I WANNA *KEEP* MY POWER! I'LL *NEVER* GIVE IT UP! I'LL BE THE *HULK* FOREVER!

THOOM!

THOOM!

THOOM!

MINUTES LATER, ON A LEDGE ATOP A REMOTE PEAK IN THE TOWERING ALPS...

THERE'S NO ONE WITHIN *MILES* OF ME HERE! SO I'LL SET DOWN AND DO SOME *FIGURIN'*!

I CAN'T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE RUNNING AND HIDING! IT'S TIME FOR EVERYONE ELSE TO RUN FROM *ME*!

I'M THE STRONGEST LIVIN' MAN THERE *IS*! AND I GOT THE *WATCHER'S* ULTIMATE MACHINE, ALSO!

NOW, ALL I GOTTA FIGURE OUT IS WHAT TO DO NEXT..!

IF ONLY IT WASN'T GETTIN SO HARD FOR ME TO *THINK*..!

BUT, EVEN WHILE THE HULK TRIES TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HIMSELF, EVENTS ARE SHAPING UP HALF A WORLD AWAY... EVENTS WHICH HAVE A STRANGE IMPACT ON THE INCREDIBLE GIANT'S DESTINY...

THERE IT *IS*, GENERAL ROSS..THE *T-GUN*! BRUCE BANNER'S LAST INVENTION BEFORE HIS TRAGIC END!

YOU BUILT IT FROM HIS *PLANS*... BUT YOU DON'T REALLY *UNDERSTAND* IT!

I WONDER WHY BANNER CALLED THIS A T-GUN? WHAT DOES THE "T" STAND FOR?

IT'S *ANYBODY'S* GUESS! WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL ROSS'S SPECIALISTS ACTUALLY *FIRE* IT!

THAT'S *RIGHT*, SIR! THAT'S WHY *YOUR* COMMAND HAS BEEN ORDERED TO *TEST* THE WEAPON!

TOWARDS THE END, BANNER WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING A *TRAITOR*! FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE *WANTED* US TO BUILD THE T-GUN FROM HIS PLANS!

IT MIGHT BE A GIGANTIC, DESTRUCTIVE *BOOBY TRAP*!

AND IT'S *MY* JOB TO FIND OUT, EH? WELL, LET'S GET *STARTED*!

I WANT THIS BUILDING RINGED BY MY *NIKE MISSILES* NIGHT AND DAY! WE'LL BE OPERATING UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY CONDITIONS!

YES, SIR, GENERAL ROSS! ANY OTHER INSTRUCTIONS?

JUST *ONE*.. CLEAR *OUT* OF HERE, THE LOT OF YOU! MY STAFF AND I HAVE A *JOB* ON OUR HANDS!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE PEPPERY HARD-BITTEN GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS CONFERS WITH HIS TOP MISSILEMEN AND SECURITY OFFICERS...

IT'S ABOUT *TIME* YOU GOT HERE, MAJOR TALBOT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY TOP *SECURITY AIDE*, NOT THE LOVER-BOY OF THE CONTINENTAL COMMAND!

BUT GLEN WAS JUST ESCORTING ME TO SEE YOU, DAD!

NEVER MIND, BETTY! YOUR FATHER'S *RIGHT!*

SORRY, SIR! I STAND CORRECTED! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, SON! THE *REST* OF YOU, *CARRY ON!*

I WANT TO SPEAK TO *YOU* AND MY DAUGHTER, *PRIVATELY*, TALBOT!

I DARE NOT RELAX SECURITY UNTIL THE *HULK* IS ACCOUNTED FOR! WHY HAVEN'T YOU *FOUND* HIM?

I DON'T *KNOW*, SIR! IT'S AS IF THE EARTH HAS SWALLOWED HIM UP! WE HAVE THE BOY, *RICK JONES*, IN CUSTODY, BUT HE REFUSES TO TALK!

BUT, YOU *CAN'T* BELIEVE A TEEN-AGE BOY KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE *HULK*?!!

QUIET, GIRL! THIS IS NO CONCERN OF *YOURS!*

BUT IT *IS* MY CONCERN, FATHER! RICK JONES WAS A FRIEND OF BRUCE BANNER'S... AND I.. I HAD BEEN IN *LOVE* WITH BRUCE!

DON'T EVER SAY THAT *AGAIN!* YOU *KNOW* BANNER WAS A *TRAITOR!*

NO! IT WAS NEVER *PROVEN!* I'LL NEVER *BELIEVE* THAT OF HIM!

BETTY, *PLEASE!* YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING..!

YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, GLEN TALBOT!

YOU NEVER TRUSTED BRUCE! EVEN THOUGH HE DEVOTED HIS *LIFE* TO NATIONAL DEFENSE, YOU HOUNDED HIM... YOU NEVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND...

THAT'S *ENOUGH!* TALBOT FOLLOWED *MY ORDERS!* IF YOU'VE ANY COMPLAINTS, TAKE THEM UP WITH *ME!*

YOUR *HEART* BLINDED YOU TO BANNER'S TREASON... BUT WHAT'S *RICK JONES'* EXCUSE ??

AND, IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED MILITARY PRISON, WE FIND...

HOW COME THEY NEED SUCH A HEAVY GUARD FOR ONE KID, SARGE?

IN CASE THE *HULK* TRIES TO RESCUE 'IM, SOLDIER!

YEAH? A LOT OF GOOD *WE'D* DO AGAINST THE *HULK!*

OKAY, *AT EASE!* TEND YOUR POST AND LET THE *BRASS* DO THE THINKIN'!

THEY SAY I'VE GOTTA *STAY* HERE UNTIL I TELL WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THE HULK AND DR. BANNER! BUT I *CAN'T* TELL... I *SWORE* I WOULDN'T!

I CAN'T BREAK MY WORD TO BRUCE BANNER ....NOT TO THE MAN WHO TURNED INTO THE HULK WHEN HE SAVED MY LIFE, YEARS AGO!*

ONLY ONE *OTHER* MAN KNOWS THE HULK'S SECRET... THE MAN IN THE *WHITE HOUSE!* MAYBE *HE* CAN HELP!

*IF YOU MISSED THE ORIGIN OF THE HULK, WE'LL TRY TO RECREATE IT FOR YOU SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.. - STAN.

LISTEN... YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME CALL THE WHITE HOUSE!

YEAH? IS THAT ALL? MAYBE YOU'D LIKE US TO CARRY YOU THERE... PIGGY-BACK?!!

LOOK! I'M NOT KIDDIN'! YOU'VE GOTTA LISTEN TO ME!

HE'LL SPEAK TO ME... HONEST HE WILL! JUST TELL HIM... TELL HIM IT'S ABOUT THE HULK!

SURE, KID... SURE! NEXT TIME I GO OVER THERE FOR DINNER, I'LL MENTION IT TO 'IM! MEBBE WHEN WE'RE BOTH WALKIN' OUR DOGS, OR SOMETHIN'!

THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL GET OUTTA HERE IS BY TELLIN' WHAT YOU KNOW... NOT BY TRYIN' OUT ANY NUTTY STORIES ON US!

BUT, IT'S THE TRUTH! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!

AND, WHILE THE SECURITY GUARDS UNDERSTANDABLY TURN A DEAF EAR TO RICK JONES' REQUEST, WE RETURN TO THE STRONGEST HUMAN TO WALK THE EARTH...

WHEN THE LEADER SHOVED HIS HEAD INTO THIS THING, IT KILLED 'IM! BUT MY SKIN'S A LOT THICKER THAN HIS WAS!

I'M GONNA SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT MYSELF! I MIGHT AS WELL... I GOT NOTHIN TO LOSE...!

THE WORST IT CAN DO IS KILL ME... AND THAT SURE AIN'T GONNA BREAK ANYBODY ELSE'S HEART!

THUS, WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, THE INCREDIBLE HULK EASES HIS HEAD INTO THE UNEARTHLY DEVICE WHICH THE WATCHER CALLED HIS ULTIMATE MACHINE... THE STOREHOUSE OF ALL THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE GALAXY...!

LUCKY I'M THE HULK NOW... NOT BRUCE BANNER! HE'D BE TREMBLIN' LIKE A LEAF AT THE THOUGHT OF ALL HE'S GONNA LEARN! ME, I'M JUST PROVIN' NOTHING CAN HURT ME!

BUT THEN, THE GREEN TITAN REELS BACK AGAINST THE ROCKY WALL... HIS HEAD THROBBING WITH THE IMPACT OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A BILLION VOICES, ALL TALKING AT ONCE...

MY BRAIN!! IT'S ON FIRE... FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA EXPLODE..!

GOTTA GET IT OFF... BEFORE IT KILLS ME, LIKE IT DID THE LEADER!

BUT, BEFORE TEARING IT FROM HIS PULSATING HEAD, ONE VOICE REGISTERS UPON THE HULK'S BRAIN... LOUDER, CLEARER, MORE URGENT THAN ANY OTHER...!

ONLY THE WHITE HOUSE CAN HELP ME! SOMEONE'S GOT TO TELL THE PRESIDENT..!

THAT VOICE... IT'S THE KID... IT'S RICK JONES!

THEN, RIPPING THE AWESOME OBJECT FROM HIS ACHING SKULL AT THE LAST POSSIBLE SECOND, THE *HULK* SUDDENLY REALIZES...

IT'S LIKE I WAS *MEANT* TO HEAR THAT LAST MESSAGE... LIKE SOMEONE *PLANNED* THE WHOLE THING! RICK JONES NEEDS MY HELP!

I ALMOST *FORGOT* ABOUT 'IM! EVER SINCE I SAVED HIS LIFE, HE TRIED TO PAY ME BACK..TRIED TO BE MY FRIEND! WHY *SHOULDN'T* I HELP 'IM? IT'LL GIVE ME SOMETHIN' TO *DO!*

EXCITED BY THE PROSPECT OF IMPENDING *ACTION*, THE HULK'S CLOUDED BRAIN PROMPTLY *FORGETS* THE ULTIMATE MACHINE AS HE LEAPS UNHESITATINGLY FROM THE TOWERING PEAK...

IT WON'T TAKE *ME* LONG TO REACH WASHINGTON..!

AND, IF THEY KNOW WHAT'S *GOOD* FOR 'EM, NOBODY BETTER TRY'N *STOP* ME!

SUDDENLY, A VOICE...OR IS IT MERELY A NEBULOUS *THOUGHT*, TRAVELLING THROUGH INFINITY?..SEEMS TO TRAIL AFTER THE DEPARTING FIGURE...

I HAVE SWORN NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS, AND YET...

...ALL I DID WAS LET HIM HEAR *ONE* VOICE ABOVE THE OTHERS! ONLY THE *FUTURE* CAN TELL WHETHER I HAVE DONE WRONG!

NOW THAT IT IS FORGOTTEN AND UNWANTED, IT IS TIME TO *REGAIN* MY ULTIMATE MACHINE!..

FOR, IT WILL BE MANY *MILLENNIUMS* BEFORE MANKIND WILL BE READY FOR IT! SO SPEAKS THE *WATCHER!*

LATER, AT A FAR NORTH COASTAL RADAR TRACKING STATION...

U.F.O.* COMING FAST AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK!

I CAN *SEE* IT! IT'S A... *NO!* I MUST BE *IMAGING* THINGS..! I'VE *GOTTA* BE..!

*UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN OBJECT, NATCH!... STAN.

IT'S A *MAN,* LEAPING THROUGH THE AIR!

MAN, MY *EYE!* WE SHOULDA *GUESSED!* IT'S THE *HULK!*

HE'S NOT ATTACKING US... JUST USING THIS AS ANOTHER *JUMPING-OFF* POINT..!

THOOM!

DUCK!

WHOOSH!

WITHIN SPLIT-SECONDS, THE ALARM GOES OUT... *THE HULK IS HEADING FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL... PURPOSE UNKNOWN!* AND SO...

THEY'RE *AFRAID* OF ME! TRYIN' TO *STOP* ME!

FOR HOURS, THE MIGHTY DEFENSES WHICH THE STRONGEST NATION ON EARTH POSSESSES KEEP THE HULK AT BAY, AS A GRIM COMMAND IS BARKED FROM THE PENTAGON...

WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF HIM SMASHING THROUGH! ORDER THE *T-GUN* BROUGHT HERE... IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAY *STOP* HIM!

WHOOM!

WHOOM!

WHOOM!

OOM!

ACTING UNDER EMERGENCY PRIORITY ORDERS, THE *T-GUN* IS TRANSPORTED TO WASHINGTON IN RECORD TIME ... AND THEN...

I *KNEW* HE'D ATTACK US SOONER OR LATER! BUT *THIS* TIME WE HAVE A WEAPON TO *STOP* HIM WITH! THIS'LL BE THE *END* OF THE HULK!

BUT, THE T-GUN HAS NEVER YET BEEN *FIRED,* SIR! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S *EFFECT* WILL BE!

RIGHT! AND THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS *ANY* TO FIND *OUT!*

BATTERY OFFICER... REEEEPORT!

T-GUN PRIMED AND READY, SIR! ALL UNITS ARE GO!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MAN! WE KNOW OUR TARGET... DESTROY HIM!

THE ENTIRE AREA HAS BEEN EVACUATED, GENERAL!

AUTOMATIC TRACKING SYSTEM IS ZEROED IN ON TARGET, SIR!

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND THE HIGH COMMAND ARE SAFELY QUARTERED IN THEIR PROTECTIVE SHELTERS!

FIVE SECONDS TILL FIRING! ..FOUR SECONDS...

RUMMMM!

...THREE...

...TWO...

...ONE...

ZERO!

HOOK!

THEN, SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN THE BRAIN OF THE HULK... THE SOMETHING WHICH STILL CONTAINS A PORTION OF ***BRUCE BANNER'S*** GENIUS...THAT SOMETHING SUDDENLY ***REMEMBERS...!***

MY ***T-GUN!!*** ONLY ***THAT*** COULD HAVE SUCH AN IMPACT... SUCH AN EFFECT! MY OWN WEAPON... USED ***AGAINST*** ME!

AND, WHEN THE GLARE, AND THE THROBBING, AND BLINDING FLASHES FINALLY CEASE...

BANNER NEVER MEANT FOR IT TO BE ***USED!*** IT WAS JUST AN ***EXPERIMENT!*** HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO LEARN ***ONE*** THING---

HE WANTED TO KNOW IF A SUDDEN BLAST WHICH ALTERED THE ***LIGHT WAVES*** AROUND A PERSON, COULD SEND HIM INTO A DIFFERENT ***TIME!***

AND NOW WE PROVED THAT HE WAS ***RIGHT!*** IT ***COULD!*** AND IT'S DONE IT... TO ***ME!***

BUT, FROM THE ***LOOKS*** OF THINGS, I'M STILL IN THE SAME ***PLACE***... IT'S STILL ***WASHINGTON!*** BUT, WHAT ***HAPPENED*** TO IT??

LINCOLN'S STATUE! IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING STILL STANDIN'... BUT IT'S GOT THE DUST OF ***AGES*** ON IT! I'M IN THE ***FUTURE***... SOME FAR ***DISTANT*** FUTURE!

BUT, IT'S LIKE SOME KINDA ***DEAD WORLD!*** .. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ***GET BACK!***

EXACTLY ONE SECOND LATER, THE HULK LEARNS THAT THE WORLD HE HAS LANDED IN IS *FAR* FROM BEING A DEAD WORLD!

SOMETHIN' *ATTACKIN'* ME... FROM BEHIND!

THWOK!

WE HAVE CAPTURED SOME SORT OF THROWBACK FROM THE *PAST!* SHALL WE ENSLAVE IT... OR *DESTROY* IT?

IT CANNOT HAVE ANY VALUE TO *US!*

SO! THEY THINK THEY *CAPTURED* ME, HUH?

MEBBE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST *TIME GUNS*... OR *ULTIMATE MACHINES*... OR STUFF LIKE THAT! BUT *THIS* IS DIFFERENT...!

NOW I *KNOW* WHERE MY ENEMY IS! I KNOW WHAT I GOTTA DO TO *BEAT* 'EM!

ALL IT TAKES IS *POWER!* NOW I'M GONNA BE FIGHTIN' IN *MY* LEAGUE AGAIN...!

AT LAST I GOT SOMETHIN' TO *SMASH OUT* AGAINST... SOMETHIN' TO *FIGHT*... A CHANCE TO DO THE THING I CAN DO BETTER THAN ANYTHING THAT *LIVES!*

THEY PICKED ON THE *WRONG* ONE WHEN THEY PICKED ON ...THE *HULK!*

PRRAKK!

IT IS THE *HULK!!* HE, OF WHOM OUR ANCIENT LEGENDS TELL! NOW WE SHALL SEE IF THE LEGENDS SPEAK *TRUE!*

NO MATTER *WHAT* AGE IT IS, I GOTTA FIGHT FOR MY LIFE AGAINST EVERYONE ELSE, HUH? WELL, WHY *NOT?* THAT'S WHY *YOU'RE* JUST A PACK OF MEN.. BUT ME... I'M THE *HULK!*

NEITHER *YOU*, NOR THE *HULK*, CAN EVEN BEGIN TO SUSPECT THE STARTLING AND SPECTACULAR SURPRISES IN STORE NEXT ISSUE! JOIN US THEN, WHEN THE FIGHTING-MAD GREEN GIANT GOES ON THE *RAMPAGE* AS NEVER BEFORE!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TALES TO ASTONISH

76 FEB 12¢

"UNEASY HANGS THE HEAD..!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"I, AGAINST A WORLD!"

SUPPOSE YOU SAW THE *HULK* HURTLING TOWARDS THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.? WOULD *YOU* BELIEVE HE MERELY WANTED TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT *RICK JONES* NEEDS HIS HELP? OR, IN AN EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WOULD YOU FIRE THE FANTASTIC *T-GUN** AT HIM, AS THE TROOPS UNDER GENERAL ROSS' COMMAND DID, LITTLE DREAMING HE WOULD INSTANTLY *VANISH*, THEN REAPPEAR IN THE FAR DISTANT *FUTURE*!!

IT IS THE *HULK*--HE OF WHOM OUR ANCIENT *LEGENDS* TELL! BEWARE HIS BRUTAL *POWER!*

EVEN IN THE *FUTURE* I GOTTA FIGHT FOR MY LIFE AGAINST EVERYONE ELSE!

STAY BACK!! *BACK!!* YOU'RE JUST A PACK OF MEN--BUT ME, I'M THE *HULK!*

**T-GUN:* EXPERIMENTAL DEVICE INVENTED BY *BRUCE BANNER!* SO NAMED BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE IS TO DISTORT LIGHT WAVES, AS A METHOD OF *TIME TRAVEL!*

LIVING PROOF THAT *TEAMWORK* PAYS OFF--!

SCRIPT.....STAN LEE
LAYOUT.....JACK KIRBY
PENCILLING....SCOTT EDWARD
INKING.....MICKEY DEMEO
LETTERING.....ARTIE SIMEK

NO WONDER IT'S ANOTHER MARVEL MASTERWORK!

PROPELLED BY THE MOST INCREDIBLY POWERFUL ARMS OF ANY HUMAN, THE GIGANTIC BOULDER THUNDERS TO THE GROUND, SHATTERING WITH THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF A DOZEN MORTAR SHELLS--!

I'M *THRU* RUNNING! THRU BEING HOUNDED! *NOBODY'S* ATTACKING ME AGAIN--*NOBODY!!*

WHOOM

PROTECT YOURSELVES! FORCE ALONE CANNOT STOP HIM! BUT WE HAVE *OTHER* MEANS!

WE CANNOT ALLOW A DESTRUCTIVE, RAMPAGING *BRUTE* TO RUN AMOK IN OUR LAND!

ESPECIALLY *NOW*, WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH THE DEADLY THREAT OF... THE *EVIL ONE!*

THUS, WE MUST USE ANY AND ALL MEANS TO *STOP* HIM! EXPLOSO-RAY GUNNERS --*FIRE AT WILL!*

BWOK!

BWOK!

BWOK!

BUT, SECONDS LATER...

CEASE FIRING! IT IS *USELESS!* THE SHELLS MERELY SERVE TO *INFURIATE* HIM THE MORE!

ALL UNITS TAKE COVER! PREPARE TO FIRE *DELTA MISSILE!*

I'LL SMASH YOU *ALL!!* I'M THE *HULK*, DO YA HEAR?? THE *HULK!!!*

KROOM!

BAM!!

HE'S PREPARING TO *CHARGE!!* ONLY THE DELTA MISSILE CAN STOP HIM! *FIRE!!*

MISSILE STRAIGHT ON TARGET! IMPACT ASSURED!

NO MISSILE CAN HURT THE *HULK!!*

THEN, BEFORE THE SOUND OF THE GREEN GOLIATH'S THUNDEROUS CHALLENGE CAN DIE AWAY, HE WHO HAD BEEN BRUCE BANNER IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE SMOKE AND DEBRIS OF THE EXPLODING MISSILE!

KRA-BOOM!

BUT, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS--WHEN THE CARNAGE BEGINS TO SUBSIDE--WHEN THE DEAFENING ECHO FADES INTO NOTHINGNESS--ONE FACT REMAINS--THOUGH SHAKEN AND STUNNED, THE *HULK STILL STANDS!!*

LOOK!! HOW CAN IT *BE??!* HE SURVIVED A DIRECT HIT! HE STILL *LIVES!*

NO MISSILE--CAN HURT--THE--*HULK*--!

TRULY THIS SURPASSES ALL REASON--ALL UNDERSTANDING!

SUCH A BEING IS FAR TOO *WONDROUS* TO BE DESTROYED! HE MUST BE *CAPTURED!* HE MUST BE *STUDIED!*

BRING YOU FORTH, THEN --THE *CAPTIVATOR!*

INSTANTLY, A STRANGE MACHINE LUMBERS TOWARDS THE HULK--OPERATED BY WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL...

WHAT MAKES THEM THINK *THIS* THING CAN STOP ME??

I'LL RIP IT APART WITH MY BARE *HANDS!*

NOT SO, MIGHTY ONE! EVEN *YOU* CANNOT RESIST THE PRESSURE OF *CONCENTRATED GRAVITY*-- NOTHING THAT *LIVES* CAN!

DESPITE YOUR AWESOME POWER, YOU ARE FACING THE SCIENTIFIC MARVELS OF THE *25TH CENTURY* --MARVELS YOU HAVE NEVER *DREAMED* OF!

THE HEAVY GRAVITY IS TAKING EFFECT! HE IS *STIFFENING!* WE HAVE *WON!*

HIS BRAIN, SUCH AS IT IS, CAN STILL THINK! HIS LIMBS CAN STILL *FEEL!* BUT HE IS POWERLESS TO *MOVE!*

IT CAN'T LAST *FOREVER!* SOONER OR LATER, I'LL *SMASH* THEM--!

QUICKLY! BEFORE THE EFFECTS WEAR OFF-- HE MUST BE *SECURED!*

WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE *FORTRESS*-- WHILE WE STILL *CAN!*

ONE OF THE PARADOXES OF *TIME* IS THE FACT THAT PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE EXIST *SIMULTANEOUSLY!* THUS, EVEN AS THE HULK IS ENCIRCLED, IF WE WERE TO TURN MANY HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE PAST, WE WOULD FIND-- ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN...

KEEP SEARCHING! THERE *MUST* BE A TRACE OF THE HULK *SOMEWHERE!*

THIS IS WHERE HE STOOD WHEN THE BLAST STRUCK HIM!

BUT HE'S *GONE!* AS THOUGH HE HAD NEVER EXISTED!

NO SIGN OF HULK! T-GUN MUST BE SOME SORT OF *DISINTEGRATOR!* OVER--!

NEGATIVE! IT IS KNOWN THAT BANNER WAS *NOT* WORKING ON DISINTEGRATOR! *KEEP SEARCHING* --BY ORDER OF *GENERAL ROSS!*

IF WE DON'T FIND THAT GREEN GARGOYLE, "*THUNDERBOLT*" ROSS'LL BE IN THE SOUP! THE CHIEF OF STAFF WILL HAVE HIS HIDE!

GENERAL, IF THE T-GUN ATOMIZED THE *HULK*, IT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED SOME OF THE TERRAIN *NEAR* HIM, TOO-- BUT EVERYTHING IS STILL *INTACT!*

I *KNOW* IT, TALBOT!! I'VE GOT EYES TO *SEE* WITH, HAVEN'T I? NOW *STAND AT EASE*, MAJOR, AND LET ME *THINK!*

UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT *HAPPENED* TO THE HULK, WE WON'T DARE USE THE T-GUN *AGAIN!!* GET EVERY AVAILABLE MAN, BUT BRING ME *RESULTS*, BLAST IT!

GENERAL, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF IS ON HIS WAY TO SEE YOU, SIR!

TENNNN-*HUT!!*

OF ALL THE DOD-BLAMED, DING-BUSTED *LUCK!* WHAT IN SAM HILL AM I GOING TO *TELL* HIM??!!

AS YOU WERE, MEN! WHERE IS *GENERAL ROSS??*

RIGHT *HERE*, SIR! I WASN'T *EXPECTING* YOU SO SOON!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES *THAT* MAKE, GENERAL?? I HEARD THAT YOU *LOST THE HULK!* I WANT AN *EXPLANATION*, AND I WANT IT *NOW!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME MORE *TIME*, SIR!

MORE TIME??! YOU HAD THAT MUSCLE-BOUND FREAK RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF YOU! YOU WERE ARMED WITH OUR LATEST DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY! AND YOU *BUNGLED* THE JOB! AM I *RIGHT*, OR NOT??

NOW, *HOLD ON*, GENERAL! DON'T LET THAT ONE EXTRA STAR GO TO YOUR *HEAD!* THIS IS STILL *MY* ASSIGNMENT-- AND I'LL HANDLE IT *MY* WAY!

ALL RIGHT, ROSS! WE WERE CLASSMATES TOGETHER AT THE POINT-- AND YOUR DIVISION HAS PULLED PLENTY OF CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE FOR THE PENTAGON TILL NOW! SO I'LL *GIVE* YOU MORE TIME!

BUT *HEAR THIS!* THE HIGH COMMAND *WANTS THE HULK*-- OR WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM! AND IF *YOU* CAN'T DELIVER, WE'LL GET SOME-ONE WHO *CAN!*

I *READ* YOU, SIR! THE HULK WILL BE *FOUND!*

NO MERE WORDS OF OURS CAN FULLY DESCRIBE THE MOOD OF BLIND RAGE AND FURY THAT FILLS THE HEART OF "*THUNDERBOLT*" ROSS AS HE SPEEDS BACK TO HIS COMMAND A SHORT TIME LATER...!

I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE SERVICE IF I DON'T LOCATE THE HULK, MAJOR! AND I KNOW HOW TO *DO* IT! FROM NOW ON, THE KID GLOVES ARE *OFF!*

THE *BOY*, RICK JONES, HOLDS THE *KEY* TO ALL THIS! AND, BY JUPITER, *THIS* TIME HE'S GOING TO TALK!

FASTER, BLAST IT!! *FASTER!!*

I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THERE WAS SOME STRANGE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE *HULK*, *BANNER*, AND *JONES!* IT'S LUCKY FOR US THE BOY IS OUR *PRISONER!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE GRIM, OMINOUS WAR-TORN WORLD OF THE FAR *FUTURE*, THE STILL-MOTIONLESS *HULK* IS TRANSPORTED TO THE CITADEL OF HIS CAPTORS--

ONCE WE ENTER THE STONE FORTRESS, THE HULK WILL BE FOREVER WITHIN OUR POWER!

THAT'S WHAT *THEY* THINK! I FEEL THAT GRAVITY STUFF STARTIN' TO WEAKEN *NOW!*

THIS DUNGEON WAS CREATED TO WITHSTAND THE STRONGEST WEAPONS KNOWN TO MAN!

BUT, THE HULK IS *NOT* MERELY A WEAPON!! HIS STRENGTH EXCEEDS ANY POWER EVER KNOWN! AND HE IS GUIDED BY A *HUMAN BRAIN!*

ENOUGH TALK! FINISH THE JOB, AND LET US DEPART!

BUT, SECONDS AFTER THE MASSIVE CONCRETE DOOR SWINGS SHUT...

THEY DIDN'T *EXPECT* ME TO SNAP OUT OF IT SO FAST! BUT, I *FOOLED* 'EM!

SO *THIS* IS THE WORLD OF THE *FUTURE!* IT'S JUST A BIG *NOTHIN'!!!* THEY ALL LOOK SCARED OF THEIR OWN *SHADOWS!* I WONDER *WHY*--??

AWW, WHAT DO *I* CARE?? I CAN LICK 'EM *ALL!* I'M THE *HULK!!* AND I GOT A LOT OF *PAYIN' BACK* TO DO!

BUT BEFORE I TAKE THIS PLACE *APART*, I BETTER *THINK*-- JUST LIKE BRUCE BANNER WOULDA DONE!* I GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET BACK TO MY *OWN* TIME!

SOMETIMES THE CLOUDED BRAIN OF THE BESTIAL TITAN *FORGETS* THAT HE AND BRUCE BANNER ARE TRULY ONE AND THE SAME --FOR, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE ORIGINAL NORMAL IDENTITY OF BANNER IS SUBMERGED BY THE STRONGER, MORE BRUTAL ESSENCE OF-- THE *HULK!!*

I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH 'EM FOR A WHILE--UNTIL I FIND OUT IF THEY HAVE SOME WAY FOR ME TO GET *BACK* AGAIN!

WITH ALL THE BIG SCIENTIFIC BRAINS AROUND HERE, THERE MAY BE SOME KINDA MACHINE, OR SOMETHING--!

AND, IF THERE *IS*, I'LL *FIND* IT-- IF I HAVETA TEAR THIS WHOLE *WORLD* APART--STONE BY STONE!!!

THEN, A MOMENT LATER...

SO! YOU HAVE *RECOVERED!*

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE! YOU WILL FOLLOW US, UNDER PAIN OF *DEATH!*

I COULD RAM THOSE TOYS DOWN THEIR THROATS --BUT I'LL STRING ALONG FOR A WHILE!

COME! KING ARRKAM IS NOT TO BE KEPT WAITING!

THEN *MOVE*-- BEFORE I STEP DOWN AND *FLATTEN* YA!

HEED MY WORDS, LEGENDARY CREATURE FROM THE DISTANT PAST! DESPITE OUR GREAT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, OUR AGE IS IN DIRE *PERIL!*

THE EVIL ONE, WHOSE NAME ITSELF REPULSES US, THREATENS OUR LIBERTY, OUR CIVILIZATION, YEA--OUR VERY *LIVES!*

THAT'S *YOUR* PROBLEM! I GOT *OTHER* THINGS ON MY MIND!

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, BRUTE! YOU ARE ADDRESSING THE *KING!*

I *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE LEADING UP TO!! YOU GOT SOME KINDA *WAR* ON YOUR HANDS, AND YOU WANT MY HELP! WELL, *FORGET IT!*

THE *HULK* DON'T CARE WHO'S THE *GOOD GUYS* OR THE *BAD GUYS!!*

STOP HIM! HE ADVANCES UPON HIS *MAJESTY!*

GET *BACK*, YOU FLEAS!! I HAD *ENOUGH* TALK!! I WANT *OUT*-- AND I WANT IT *NOW!*

IF YOU HAVE A MACHINE TO SEND ME BACK TO MY OWN TIME, *USE* IT ON ME! IF NOT, I'LL CAUSE MORE DAMAGE THAN A *HUNDRED* "EVIL ONES"!

KING ARRKAM YIELDS TO *NO* THREATS!! *ATTACK HIM*, MY LOYAL LEGIONS!!

DESPITE HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, YOU CAN OVER-WHELM HIM BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS!!

YEAH? *THAT'LL* BE THE DAY!!

WE'LL RUSH HIM ALL AT *ONCE!!* HE CAN'T STOP *ALL* OF US!!

YOU *STILL* DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, HUH?? YOU *STILL* DON'T KNOW THE POWER OF THE *HULK!!*

THEN, MOVING WITH UNCANNY SPEED FOR ONE SO HUGE, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH SUDDENLY TEARS UP AN ENTIRE SECTION OF THE STONE FLOOR, WITH THE SUDDEN FORCE OF A *THUNDERCLAP--!*

YOU GOT A LOT TO *LEARN* ABOUT ME--!

AND HERE'S WHERE YOU'RE GONNA *START--!!*

KRUNCH!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE RAGING RAMPAGER HAS SCATTERED THE VANGUARD OF HIS FOES LIKE TENPINS--!

THE OTHERS ARE RUNNIN' AWAY!

WAIT! HERE ARE TWO YA *FORGOT*! I'LL TOSS 'EM *AFTER* YOU--!

BRRAK!

THWAP!

BUT, THE SUPPLY OF FUTURISTIC WEAPONS WHICH CAN BE TURNED AGAINST THE HULK SEEMS VIRTUALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE...

PREPARE TO *FIRE*! POINT BLANK RANGE!

IF *ANYTHING* CAN STOP THAT ABORIGINE, THIS HIGH-INTENSITY *PARALYZER HOWITZER* WILL DO IT!

HURRY! NO TELLING *WHAT* HE'LL DO NEXT!

BUT, BEFORE THE AWESOME GUN CAN BE PUT INTO OPERATION, THE MIGHTIEST HUMAN LEGS ON EARTH CATAPULT THEIR INCREDIBLE OWNER TOWARDS A TOWERING WALL OF STONE ALMOST *20 FEET THICK*!!

NOBODY'S FIRIN' ANY MORE SHELLS AT THE *HULK*!

LOOK OUT!

STOP HIM!

QUICK! SWING THE HOWITZER AROUND! *HURRY*!

TOO LATE! BUT, DON'T WORRY--HE'LL BATTER HIMSELF TO A PULP AGAINST THAT SOLID STONE WALL!

THEY THINK I'LL KNOCK MYSELF OUT WHEN I *HIT*!!

THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS HAVETA *WIN*!! NOBODY CAN BELIEVE HOW STRONG I REALLY *AM*!

CRRASH!

THEN, WITH ONLY HIS BARE HANDS--WITH FINGERS STRONGER THAN STEEL GRAPPLING-HOOKS, THE GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOTH LITERALLY *TEARS* THE WALL APART IN HIS FRANTIC SURGE TOWARDS FREEDOM--!

NOTHIN' CAN STOP THE *HULK*!! NOT NOW OR *EVER*!

SKRAK!

KRUNCH!

THUMP!

UNTIL, FINALLY...

I'M 'WAY ABOVE THE GROUND! BUT THAT AINT GONNA STOP *ME!*

I COULD *JUMP* OFF HERE EASY ENOUGH, BUT THEY MIGHT PICK ME UP WITH SOME KINDA *RADAR!*

I GOT A *BETTER* IDEA--!

USING HIS MIGHTY FINGERS AND TOES TO POUND HAND-AND-FOOTHOLDS INTO THE WALL, THE HULK CLIMBS EASILY DOWN, UNTIL HE HEARS--

RRREEEEEEEEEEE

SIRENS! ALL OVER THE CITY!

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T GET AWAY IF *THEY* CAN HELP IT!

BUT THEN, EVEN *HIS* FOGGY, RAGE-FILLED BRAIN BEGINS TO REALIZE...

NO! THE SIRENS AINT FOR *ME!* THERE'S SOME WALKIN' *PILLBOXES* INVADIN' THE CITY! IT MUST BE THAT "*EVIL ONE*" THEY'RE AFRAID OF!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

MAYBE *HE'S* GOT SOMETHIN' THAT'LL GET ME BACK TO THE *PAST* AGAIN!

I MIGHT AS WELL TRY HIM AND SEE!

I HOPE HE *ATTACKS* ME! I'M *SPOILIN'* FOR A GOOD FIGHT!

WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION, THE HULK LANDS ON THE FIRST DOME, EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING TENSE AND READY FOR BATTLE--!

THANG!

WHOEVER'S *INSIDE* OF THIS THING SURE MUSTA HEARD *THAT!*

10

THE *HATCH* IS OPENIN'! *ANYTHING* CAN HAPPEN NOW!

CRIKKKK

I'M THE *HULK!* IF YER *IN* THERE, COME OUT BEFORE I GO IN AN' *DRAG* YA OUT!

SILENCE, YOU BRAINLESS FOSSIL! *NO ONE* GIVES ORDERS TO --- THE IMMORTAL *EXECUTIONER!*

THE PACE QUICKENS! THE PLOT THICKENS! A NEW WORLD OF WONDERMENT AWAITS YOU NEXT ISSUE! NO HIP HULK-LOVER CAN AFFORD TO MISS IT!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

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77 MAR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TALES TO ASTONISH

THE THRILLER YOU NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE!

"BRUCE BANNER IS THE HULK!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

AT LAST! THE HULK'S DREAD SECRET REVEALED!

"BRUCE BANNER IS THE HULK!"

BACK, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE! BACK BEFORE THE MATCHLESS POWER OF THE *EXECUTIONER!*

THE *HULK* DOESN'T BACK UP FOR *ANYONE!*

TRAPPED IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, OUR GREEN GOLIATH LEARNS THAT THE DREADED "EVIL ONE" IS REALLY THE MIGHTY, IMMORTAL **EXECUTIONER!**

(THAT'S ALL YOU NEED FOR NOW! WE'LL FILL YOU IN AS WE GO ALONG!)

LOOK OUT BELOW! OUR BATTY BULLPEN *NAME-DROPPERS* ARE AT IT AGAIN..!

Script by: STAN LEE!
Layouts by: JACK KIRBY!
Pencilling & Inking by: JOHNNY ROMITA!
Lettering by: SAM ROSEN!

YOUR FUTILE DISPLAY OF ***BRUTE STRENGTH*** DOES NOT IMPRESS ***ME!*** REMEMBER... I AM AN ***IMMORTAL OF ASGARD!*** MY POWERS ARE FAR BEYOND YOUR DULL COMPREHENSION!

AND I'M THE ***HULK!*** I'M STRONGER THAN ***ANYONE***.. OR ***ANYTHING!*** NO FANCY WORDS CAN STOP ME!

I DON'T ***BELONG*** HERE! IT'S THE WRONG CENTURY! I'LL ***FIGHT***... ***SMASH***.. ***DESTROY***... TILL SOMEONE SENDS ME ***BACK!***

YOU BRAIN-LESS SAVAGE! ***I*** HAVE THE POWER ... THE KNOWLEDGE TO BRIDGE THE GAP OF TIME ... TO SPAN THE AGES... AT WILL!

BUT, THAT SECRET SHALL NEVER BE ***YOURS!***

KRRAKK!

THIS IS WHAT THE ***EXECUTIONER*** THINKS OF YOUR PITIFUL ATTACK!

CAUGHT IN A CATACLYSMIC, CAREENING BARRAGE OF SOLID STEEL SHRAPNEL, THE INCREDIBLE ***HULK*** WITHSTANDS AN ONSLAUGHT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHATTER AN ARMY OF ***TANKS!***

WHHROOOOM!

BUT, THE BLUDGEONING ATTACK ONLY SERVES TO FEED THE FLAMES OF HIS SMOLDERING FURY... TO POUR HOT COALS UPON HIS BURNING RAGE ... TO AWAKEN ANEW THE SAVAGE URGE TO LASH OUT... TO DESTROY ... WHICH IS EVER SEETHING WITHIN HIS BRUTAL BREAST...!

NOTHING CAN HURT ME! NOTHING CAN STOP ME! I'M THE ***HULK!*** I'M THE STRONGEST THERE ***IS!***

YOU'RE GETTIN' *UP?* *NO!* IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* YOU *CAN'T* FIGHT ANY MORE! NOT AFTER *THAT!*

HOW CAN A MERE *MORTAL* BE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF ONE SUCH AS *I!??* POWER WHICH IS *ETERNAL!*

POWER WHICH CAN BE *REPLENISHED,* TIME AND AGAIN... BY AN *IMMORTAL!*

AND NOW, YOU SHALL *PAY* FOR YOUR ARROGANCE... AND THE PRICE SHALL BE... YOUR *LIFE!*

THUD!

BUT, NO ANSWER ESCAPES THE LIPS OF THE RAMPAGING *HULK!* FOR, HIS CLOUDED BRAIN HAS ONLY ONE THOUGHT... ONE PURPOSE... ONE GOAL... TO SMASH OUT AND *CRUSH* THE FIGURE BEFORE HIM...TO PROVE THAT *NONE* CAN OVERCOME... THE *HULK!*

THUS, THE TWO TITANIC COMBATANTS HURTLE EARTHWARD, STILL LOCKED IN BATTLE, A BATTLE WHICH CAN ONLY BE ENDED BY... TOTAL ANNIHILATION!

MEANWHILE, MANY CENTURIES IN THE *PAST,* GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, HOT-TEMPERED AS EVER, BELLOWS ANGRILY AT THE TEEN-AGER BEFORE HIM...

THIS IS YOUR *LAST CHANCE,* JONES! I'M *ORDERING* YOU TO TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE *HULK!* WHERE *IS* HE?? *TALK,* BOY!

I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE IS, GENERAL! I THOUGHT HE WAS *KILLED*... WHEN YOU FIRED DR. BANNER'S *T-GUN* AT HIM!

MP

*AS WE SAW IN *ASTONISH # 75!* IT WAS THAT AWESOME BURST WHICH SENT THE GREEN GIANT INTO THE FAR FUTURE!.. *HELPFUL STAN.*

HE *CAN'T* BE DEAD! THERE WAS NO TRACE OF HIS *BODY*... THE SHOT DIDN'T CAUSE ANY DAMAGE TO *ANYTHING!* IT WAS A *TRICK*... SOME SCHEME OF BANNER'S TO HELP THE HULK *ESCAPE!*

WE ALL *KNOW* YOU'RE TIED IN WITH BANNER AND THE HULK... IN SOME SECRET MANNER! YOU'VE GOT TO *TALK!* WHAT WAS THE *REAL* PURPOSE OF BANNER'S *T-GUN?*

I DON'T KNOW, GENERAL! HONEST, I DON'T!*

* BUT *WE* DO, DON'T WE? IT WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL *TIME-TRAVEL* DEVICE!..S.

TAKE HIM *OUT!* IT'S *USELESS!* HE WON'T TALK!... AND WE CAN'T HOLD HIM ANY LONGER! BUT, IF I EVER GET ANY CONCRETE *EVIDENCE* TO PROVE MY SUSPICIONS...

DR. BANNER IS DEAD!...AND THE HULK IS DEAD! WHY CAN'T YOU... JUST LET THEM REST IN PEACE??

BECAUSE BANNER WAS A *TRAITOR!*... JUST AS *YOU* ARE, FOR WITHHOLDING VITAL INFORMATION!

BRUCE BANNER *WASN'T* A TRAITOR! HE WAS A *PATRIOT!* HE DIDN'T *HELP* THE HULK... HE *WAS* THE HULK! BUT... I CAN'T EVER TELL... I CAN'T BETRAY THE SECRET OF THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE!

THAT BOY IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE HULK MYSTERY! I'VE *GOT* TO LEARN THE REAL ANSWER, SOME-HOW!

RICK JONES! BRUCE'S YOUNG FRIEND! WH-WHERE ARE THEY *TAKING* HIM, GLEN?

HE'S BEING SET *FREE!* WE CAN'T HOLD HIM ANY LONGER ...ALTHOUGH I WISH WE *COULD,* BETTY!

TALBOT, I WANT YOU TO KEEP THAT BOY UNDER *SURVEILLANCE!* I WANT TO KNOW EVERY PLACE HE GOES... EVERYTHING HE DOES... IS THAT *CLEAR,* MAJOR?

OH, DAD! ARE YOU NOW GOING TO HOUND POOR *RICK,* THE WAY YOU HOUNDED *BRUCE?*

SHE *STILL* LOVES BANNER!... STILL BELIEVES HE'S *INNOCENT!*

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, GENERAL! SOONER OR LATER WE'LL LEARN WHAT THE CONNECTION *WAS* BETWEEN BANNER AND THE HULK!

I'VE *GOT* TO PROVE BANNER WAS A TRAITOR! I'VE GOT TO MAKE BETTY *FORGET* HIM... OR ELSE, HIS IMAGE WILL ALWAYS STAND BETWEEN US!

THAT CONCLUDES OUR BRIEF LESSON IN CHARACTER ANALYSIS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MOTIVATION! SO, BACK TO THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE WE GO...

BEHOLD! OUR MASTER ENGAGES IN COMBAT WITH A GREEN-SKINNED CREATURE!

THE *STUN GUN*... QUICKLY! IT WILL NOT HARM THE *EXECUTIONER*... BUT NO *MORTAL* CAN RESIST ITS POWER!

POINT-BLANK RANGE! FULL INTENSITY! **FIRE!**

THWEEEE!

HAH! MY STUN BEAM... TO WHICH I MYSELF AM INVULNERABLE!

NOTHING THAT LIVES.. EXCEPT AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD.. CAN WITH-STAND ITS BATTERING FORCE!

FOOOM!

ACADEMIC NOTE: THE SOUND EFFECT ABOVE IS PRONOUNCED "FOOM"! THE THIRD "O" IS SILENT! --STAN

WHAT?! YOU BEGIN TO RISE TO YOUR FEET?!!

I CANNOT TOLERATE A MERE MORTAL HAVING POWER WHICH IS ALMOST THE EQUAL OF MY OWN! NOW, MORE THAN EVER, MUST I BATTER YOU INTO TOTAL HELPLESSNESS!

DO YOUR WORST! WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IT'S THE LAST CHANCE YOU'LL EVER GET!

FOR YOUR INSOLENCE ALONE, YOU SHALL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!

THUD!

NOT FOR NOTHING AM I CALLED... THE EXECUTIONER!

ARRHHHH!

WRAK!

AND NOW... I SHALL FINISH THE JOB!

YOU KNOCKED ME DOWN! NOBODY KNOCKS THE HULK DOWN! NOBODY!

WITH THAT, THE GREEN GOLIATH'S WORDS BECOME HOPELESSLY UNINTELLIGIBLE! SO CONSUMED WITH RAGE IS HE, THAT HE CANNOT SPEAK-- HE CANNOT THINK... HE CAN ONLY... HATE!

AND, CONSUMED BY THAT BLIND, SEETHING, UNCONTROLLABLE HATRED WHICH BEGGARS OUR POOR POWERS OF DESCRIPTION, THE RAMPAGING HUMAN BEHEMOTH RIPS THE ROCKY GROUND FROM BENEATH HIS IMMORTAL FOE'S FEET..USING THE TITANIC POWER OF HIS GIGANTIC ***BARE HANDS***...!

KRAKKK!

BUT THEN... SUDDENLY...

EXECUTIONER'S MEN... ***SHOOTING*** AT ME..!

SOME KINDA ***HEAT BLASTS***... WON'T HURT EXECUTIONER... BUT HOW MUCH OF IT CAN ***MY*** BODY TAKE..??

SSSSSSSS

AT A SIGNAL FROM THE MERCILESS EXECUTIONER, HIS FORTIFIED MOBILE PILLBOXES BEGIN TO ADVANCE TOWARDS THE BELEAGUERED CITY... SHOWERING THEIR HEAT RAYS EVERYWHERE, EVEN WHILE THE DESPERATE ***HULK*** STANDS HELPLESS, HIS DULL, CLOUDED BRAIN SLUGGISHLY TRYING TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF ITS OWN..!

SSSSSSSS

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

WHILE, SEPARATED FROM THE SCENE OF CARNAGE BY A MATTER OF CENTURIES, ***RICK JONES*** SLOWLY TRUDGES ACROSS THE GREAT SOUTH-WESTERN DESERT, ALMOST OBLIVIOUS TO THE SEARING SUN AND THE OMINOUS, OPPRESSIVE, ALL-PERVADING SILENCE ...

WAS GENERAL ROSS ***RIGHT?*** CAN IT BE THAT I ***AM*** A TRAITOR TO MY COUNTRY, FOR NOT REVEALING THE SECRET OF THE HULK?

BRUCE BANNER IS DEAD... AND THE HULK IS PROBABLY GONE FOREVER! WHAT HARM WOULD IT DO IF I ***DID*** SPEAK THE TRUTH?

PERHAPS IT WOULD MAKE PEOPLE REALIZE THAT DR. BANNER ***WASN'T*** A CRIMINAL! HE ***DIDN'T*** BETRAY AMERICA!

SLOWLY, THE HEAVY-HEARTED YOUTH TRUDGES INTO THE CAVE WHICH ONCE HOUSED BRUCE BANNER'S SECRET LABORATORY... SADLY DESCENDING THE STONE STEPS WHICH USED TO TREMBLE BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE INCREDIBLE *HULK...!*

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT EVER HAPPENED... OR THAT IT'S *OVER* NOW... FOREVER!

ALL BRUCE BANNER EVER WANTED TO DO WAS *HELP* HIS COUNTRY! IT WAS ONLY BY *ACCIDENT* THAT HE TURNED INTO THE *HULK*... WHEN HE USED HIS OWN BODY TO SAVE MY LIFE... BY SHIELDING ME FROM THE DEADLY *GAMMA RAYS...!**

* AS RELATED IN OUR BEST TEAR-JERKING STYLE IN THE NOW-CLASSIC "ORIGIN OF THE HULK", REMEMBER?.. *SENTIMENTAL STAN.*

I CAN STILL *SEE* HIM... STILL HEAR HIS TORTURED VOICE, CRYING OUT TO ME...

HELP ME, RICK! *STAY* WITH ME! ONLY *YOU* CAN HELP TO CONTROL ...THE *HULK!*

I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW HE FEARED TO CHANGE... HOW HE BATTLED AGAINST IT... BUT, IT WAS NO USE! HE COULDN'T *STOP* HIMSELF FROM BECOMING THE *HULK!*

AND THEN, THE MEMORY-HAUNTED BOY SEEMS TO *RELIVE* THOSE TRAGIC MOMENTS ONCE AGAIN, AS HIS YOUTHFUL IMAGINATION BEGINS TO RUN RAMPANT...

I'M CHANGING!! RUN! HELP ME! SAVE YOURSELF! RICK! RICK! RICK! RICK! RICK! RICK!

NO! *NO!* I DON'T WANT TO *HEAR* IT AGAIN!

THE HULK IS DEAD... *DEAD!* HE'LL NEVER BE BACK! HE CAN'T HURT ME! HE CAN'T HURT *ANYONE!* YOU DON'T HAVE TO *WORRY* ANY MORE, DR. BANNER! THE HULK IS *DEAD!*

RUNNING, FLEEING, STUMBLING... MADLY DRIVEN BY A FIT OF NEAR-HYSTERIA, THE TORTURED YOUTH FINALLY TRIPS OVER A CLUMP OF ROCKS... AND THEN...

THAT *SHADOW!* THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE CAVE *WITH* ME... SOMEONE JUST *AHEAD* OF ME! I KNOW IT! I *KNOW* IT!

RICK JONES! GET TO YOUR FEET!

I WAS *RIGHT!* THERE *IS* SOMEONE! BUT... *WHO???*

YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME, BOY! THE ONLY THING YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE IS YOUR MEMORY... YOUR *CONSCIENCE!*

MAJOR TALBOT!! H-HOW DID *YOU* GET HERE??

I'VE BEEN *FOLLOWING* YOU, JONES! I SUSPECTED YOU WERE ON THE VERGE OF NEAR-HYSTERIA!

THE SECRET YOU'VE BEEN GUARDING ALL THESE MONTHS... IT'S TOO SHATTERING... TOO POWERFUL... FOR *ANYONE* TO KEEP TO HIMSELF FOREVER!

GO AHEAD, SON! GET IT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM! IT'S BEST THIS WAY! ONCE YOU GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST, THE MEMORIES WILL BE GONE... FOR GOOD!

I WON'T RUSH YOU! I CAN WAIT... FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE TO!

BUT NOW, AS WE PAUSE TO SWALLOW THE LUMP IN OUR THROAT, LET US AGAIN RETURN TO THE DISTANT *FUTURE,* WHERE DESTINY IS BRINGING THE *HULK* EVER CLOSER TO HIS MOST FATEFUL "MOMENT OF TRUTH"!

EXECUTIONER'S MACHINES WILL DESTROY THE CITY! BUT WHAT DO *I* CARE?? *NOBODY* MATTERS TO THE *HULK!*

THAT'S *IT! FIRE! KEEP FIRING!* WITHIN THE HOUR, I'LL HAVE CARVED OUT AN *EMPIRE* FOR MYSELF! WHEN I RETURN TO ASGARD, IT SHALL BE AS A CONQUERING *HERO!*

NOT EVEN THE *HULK* CAN SAVE THEM NOW! ONCE THE CITY IS MINE, I'LL ATTACK HIM *AGAIN*... I'LL SHOW HIM NO QUARTER... NO MERCY!

LET HIM SMASH THE CITY! LET HIM SMASH *EVERY-THING!* IT'S NOT *MY* FIGHT!

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS GETTING *BACK..* TO MY *OWN* TIME... WHERE I *BELONG!*

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME HERE..NO PLACE FOR THE HULK... *ANY-WHERE!*

THEN, SUDDENLY... WITHOUT FORETHOUGHT... HE *LEAPS...!*

CAN'T *DO* IT! CAN'T WATCH EXECUTIONER DESTROY A WHOLE CITY...!

LIKE A RAGING HUMAN BULLDOZER GONE AMOK, THE INCREDIBLE HULK CHARGES INTO THE STEEL PILLBOXES, SMASHING THEM INTO EACH OTHER WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND PILEDRIVERS ---!

HERE I *AM*, EXECUTIONER! I'LL TEAR THESE THINGS *APART*... AND THEN, I'LL COME AFTER *YOU!*

HAAA!

YOU'LL NEVER SHOOT RAYS AT THE *HULK* AGAIN!

KRRAK!

RIPPING A HUGE STEEL SPAR FROM A PILE OF WRECKAGE, THE RAMPAGING LEVIATHAN HURLS IT WITH THE SPEED AND IMPACT OF A *MISSILE*...!

CRASH!

HULK!

THWM!

HAH! OTHERS TURN ... AND *RUN!!* THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR *ME!* NO MATCH FOR THE *HULK!*

BUT THEY *MUSTN'T* GET AWAY! I *NEED* EXECUTIONER... TO SEND ME BACK... TO MY OWN TIME!

EXECUTIONER! COME BACK! NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN --- THE *HULK* WILL FIND YOU!

HOW CAN A MERE *MORTAL* HAVE SUCH *POWER??* I MUST RETURN... I MUST *CRUSH* HIM... I MUST DESTROY HIM... COMPLETELY... TO BE WORTHY OF THE NAME OF *EXECUTIONER!*

WAIT! THE CITY'S GATES ARE OPENING! AN *ARMY* IS POURING OUT! THEY'RE TRYING TO SURROUND THE *HULK!* PERHAPS *THEY* WILL FINISH HIM *FOR* ME!

ATTACK THE INVADERS! WE MUST DRIVE THEM OFF, OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!

THE GREEN GIANT DROVE OFF THE EVIL ONE ... SO THAT *HE* CAN SEIZE THE CITY!

SURRENDER OR DIE, MIGHTY ONE! YOU ARE FAR TOO POWERFUL TO BE PERMITTED TO ROAM FREE!

STAY BACK! NO ONE CAPTURES THE HULK! I'LL SMASH YOU ALL!

LOOK, SIRE... HIS BODY! SOMETHING WONDROUS IS HAPPENING TO IT!

THE PRIMITIVE BRUTE POSSESSES A MAGICAL POWER! HE IS SAVING HIMSELF BY VANISHING!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?? THIS NEVER.. WAIT! NOW I KNOW! WHEN THE T-GUN HIT ME! IT WAS THE SAME WAY..!

AND, WITH THE HULK'S DISAPPEARANCE, OUR ATTENTION ALSO VANISHES, ONLY TO REAPPEAR ONCE MORE, IN A LONELY CAVE, IN THE PRESENT..!

SON, YOU KNOW THAT BANNER AND THE HULK ARE DEAD NOW! IT CAN'T DO THEM ANY HARM TO TELL ME WHAT THEIR CONNECTION TO EACH OTHER WAS!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WHY SHOULDN'T I TELL? IT'S TIME THE WORLD LEARNED THE TRUTH..!

--TIME EVERY-ONE FOUND OUT BRUCE BANNER WASN'T A TRAITOR!

DR. BANNER WAS THE GREATEST GUY WHO EVER LIVED! HE NEVER WANTED TO DO ANY-THING WRONG...IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE SAVED MY LIFE THAT HE TURNED INTO...THE HULK!

YOU MEAN... BANNER AND THE HULK... WERE ONE AND THE SAME!?

THEN, THAT EXPLAINS WHY I NEVER SAW THEM TOGETHER... WHY BANNER COULD NEVER JUSTIFY HIS ABSENCES..!

JONES..WAIT! I WANT TO HEAR MORE..!

THERE ISN'T ANY MORE..!

ANYWAY, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE NOW? THEY'RE BOTH ...DEAD..!

BUT WHAT IF THEY'RE NOT?! ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THE HULK IS THAT HE VANISHED..!

...AND IF HE SHOULD STILL BE ALIVE,.. THEN BANNER IS, TOO!

FROM A SMALL PILE OF WRECKAGE, IN THE MURKY SHADOWS, A MYSTERIOUS WHIRLWIND SEEMS TO FORM...

AS THE HEAVY-HEARTED TEEN-AGER LEAVES THE GLOOMY CAVE, FOLLOWED BY A STARTLED, WORRIED MAJOR TALBOT, NEITHER OF THEM NOTICES A STRANGE, MYSTIFYING OCCURRENCE...

...SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN FASTER AND FASTER, LIKE AN OMEN OF RETURNING LIFE! ONLY OUR NEXT ISSUE CAN TELL WHAT IT SIGNIFIES ... BUT, OF THIS WE CAN BE CERTAIN... A NEW, SENSATIONAL CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF THE HULK IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...AND WE SHALL THRILL TO EACH MOMENT OF IT...TOGETHER!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

78 APR

12¢

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

"THE PRINCE AND THE PUPPET!"

FEATURING THE SOMEWHAT MACABRE MENACE OF THE MACHIAVELLIAN PUPPET MASTER!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THE HULK MUST DIE!"

LAST ISH, THINKING THE HULK IS DEAD, **RICK JONES** FINALLY REVEALED HIS GREATEST SECRET... THE FACT THAT **DR. BRUCE BANNER** AND THE **INCREDIBLE HULK** ARE ACTUALLY **ONE AND THE SAME!** BUT, AS THE TEENAGER LEAVES THE HULK'S LONELY CAVE WITH A SHOCKED **MAJOR GLEN TALBOT**, NEITHER OF THEM REALIZES THAT THE GREEN TITAN IS SLOWLY **RETURNING FROM THE FAR-DISTANT FUTURE,** IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN TRAPPED...!

ANOTHER TRULY INSPIRED TALENT LINEUP BY MIGHTY MARVEL'S MASTERFUL CASTING DIRECTOR...

STORY BY: **STAN LEE** (CERTAINLY!)

LAYOUTS BY: **JACK KIRBY** (NATURALLY!)

ARTWORK BY: **BILL EVERETT** (SURPRISINGLY!)

LETTERING BY: **SAM ROSEN** (INEVITABLY!)

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, UNCOMPREHENDINGLY, AS THE EFFECT OF THE AMAZING ***T-GUN*** FINALLY WEARS OFF HIM, THE INCREDIBLE ***HULK*** ONCE AGAIN RETURNS TO HIS OWN CENTURY, FINDING HIMSELF DEEP WITHIN THE CAVE WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN HIS REFUGE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

I'M BACK IN MY OWN WORLD! MY OWN ***CAVE!***

WHY? CAN'T REMEMBER! EVERYTHING MIXED-UP! HEAD HURTS! CAN'T THINK..!

WITH EACH PASSING SECOND, THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF ***BRUCE BANNER*** BECOMES MORE CLOUDED... MORE DULLED... AS THE BESTIAL, SAVAGE MIND OF THE ***HULK*** ALL BUT OBLITERATES THE IDENTITY OF HIS OTHER SELF!

NO ***NEED*** TO THINK! I'M WHERE I ***BELONG!*** I'M STRONG AS EVER! I'M THE ***HULK!***

THAT'S ALL THAT ***MATTERS!***

NO DIFFERENCE ***WHAT*** WORLD I'M IN! MEN HATE ME.. HOUND ME.. HUNT ME!! NO PLACE TO REST... NO PLACE TO TURN...!

BUT I'M ***STRONGEST OF ALL!*** I GO ***ANYWHERE!*** I DO ***ANYTHING!*** NO ONE CAN STOP THE ***HULK!***

THUS, WITH HIS BRUTISH BRAIN CONFUSED, BEWILDERED, BRIMMING WITH NAMELESS RAGE AGAINST EVERYTHING THAT LIVES, THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT LEAVES THE SANCTUARY OF HIS CAVE, AS, SOME DISTANCE AWAY, A VOICE EXCLAIMS...

CHARLIE! LOOK! ON THAT RIDGE! IT'S ***HIM!***

MAJOR TALBOT'S ORDER FOR AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK ALERT ***PAID OFF!*** THE HULK ***IS*** STILL ALIVE! WE'VE ***FOUND*** 'IM!

GIVE ME HIS EXACT LOCATION, RATE OF SPEED, AND ESTIMATED OBJECTIVE!

I'LL CONTACT THE BASE RIGHT ***NOW!*** BOY, WILL ***THIS*** SHAKE 'EM UP BACK THERE!

BUT, BEFORE THE MESSAGE IS RECEIVED AT THE SPRAWLING SOUTHWESTERN MISSILE COMMAND WE FIND...

GENERAL ROSS WANTED ME TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR BASE, DR. ZAXON! IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE A SCIENTIST OF YOUR STATURE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR BRUCE BANNER!

THANK YOU, MAJOR TALBOT! I SHALL ATTEMPT TO ERASE THE ***BLOT*** WHICH BANNER'S TREASON HAS GIVEN THE NAME OF SCIENCE!

DANGER

IT'S NEVER BEEN CONCLUSIVELY **PROVEN** THAT BANNER WAS A TRAITOR, ALTHOUGH **I** AM CONVINCED OF IT! AT ANY RATE, **YOUR** FIELD IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM HIS, ISN'T IT?

YES! BANNER SPECIALIZED IN **GAMMA RAYS! I** CHOOSE TO WORK WITH **ORGANIC ENERGY**... ONE OF THE GREATEST SOURCES OF POWER KNOWN TO MAN!

IT'S ALL OVER MY HEAD, DOCTOR, BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, JUST LET ME KNOW!

THANK YOU, MAJOR TALBOT! I'LL DO MY BEST TO PROVE THAT **ORGANIC ENERGY** CAN DO MORE FOR YOUR MISSILE PROGRAM THAN BANNER'S **GAMMA RAYS** COULD, EVER HAVE DONE!

MAJOR TALBOT!! MAJOR TALBOT!

WHAT **IS** IT? WHAT'S **HAPPENED? SPEAK UP,** MAN!

IT'S THE **HULK,** SIR! HE'S BEEN **SIGHTED!** HE'S HEADING **THIS WAY!**

THEN HE **IS** ALIVE! I KNEW IT! I **KNEW** IT!

YOU HAVE YOUR **ORDERS!** FOLLOW **PLAN H!** THERE MUST BE **NO SLIP-UPS! THIS** TIME THE HULK WON'T ESCAPE US!

PLAN H HAS BEEN ACTIVATED, MAJOR! ALL CONDITIONS ARE **GO!**

STAY ON TOP OF IT, CAPTAIN! I'LL BE AT "PROJECT CONTROL"! **TAKE OFF!**

MEANWHILE, SOME DEEP-ROOTED INSTINCT, BURIED IN THE DIM RECESSES OF THE HULK'S CLOUDED BRAIN, LEADS HIM TOWARDS THE HEAVILY-GUARDED MISSILE BASE... THE BASE WHERE, AS DR. BRUCE BANNER, HE HAD ONCE DEVOTED HIS MASSIVE TALENTS, HIS MATCHLESS SKILLS, HIS VERY LIFE ITSELF, TO THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY...!

CAN'T STAY **STILL!** MUST **MOVE**... MUST RUN... JUMP.. FIGHT.. SMASH!.!!

THOOM!

THOOM!

HERE HE **COMES!!** ALL BATTERIES... **OPEN FIRE!!**

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE GREEN GOLIATH IS CAUGHT IN A DEAFENING BURST OF HEAVY ARTILLERY CROSS-FIRE...!

KA-BOOM!

BOOM!

BUT THE STRONGEST HUMAN BODY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH TAKES THE IMPACT IN HIS STRIDE, AS HE PLUMMETS TOWARDS THE GROUND TO SEEK THE ONES WHO HAVE ATTACKED HIM..!

SHOTS COME FROM BELOW! I'LL *FIND* GUNS! THEY'LL NEVER SHOOT *AGAIN!*

BAM!

BLAP!

WHOP!

NO! IT'S A *TRAP!* HOLES IN GROUND! CAN'T STOP... *FALLING THROUGH..!*

NOTE FOR HULK NOVICES: POSSESSING THE STRONGEST LEG MUSCLES IN THE WORLD, THE HULK TRAVELS IN GREAT LEAPS THAT RESEMBLE FLYING... BUT, WHILE DESCENDING, HE IS, OF COURSE, UNABLE TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF HIS PLUNGE! ... *PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC STAN!*

HOLE ONLY TWENTY FEET DEEP! I CAN *LEAP* OUT ANY TIME I... *WAIT!*

GAS! COMING IN ABOVE ME! CAN FEEL IT SEEPING INTO *SKIN...!*

ALTHOUGH ***BRUCE BANNER*** WOULD RECOGNIZE THE VAPOR INSTANTLY, SINCE IT WAS ***HE*** WHO CREATED IT, THE LUMBERING ***HULK*** CANNOT KNOW THAT HE IS A VICTIM OF ***PORE GAS***, WHICH SEALS OFF ALL THE OXYGEN HIS BODY SO DESPERATELY NEEDS..!

CHOKING ME!! CAN'T BREATHE! HAVE TO GET *OUT...* BEFORE TOO LATE..!

I'M *WEAK!* EVERYTHING GETTING DARK! MUST MAKE *ONE* LEAP..UP.. OVER THE GAS..NOW! *NOW!*

JUST *MADE* IT..TO TOP..!

CAN'T HOLD ON! DIZZY! EVERYTHING SPINNING..! CAN'T *STAND*..!

TOO MANY HOLES! NO PLACE TO STAND! NO PLACE TO GO ...!

...NO PLACE ... BUT *DOWN*..!

WE *GOT* HIM, MAJOR! HE'S TRAPPED AT *LAST*! YOUR PLAN *WORKED*!

BUT REMEMBER, WE CAN'T RELAX FOR AN *INSTANT*! HE'S *STILL* THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE WE KNOW OF! *KEEP THE GAS COMING*! HE MUSTN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIVE!

YOU CAN COUNT ON *US*, MAJOR!

ZZZZZZZZ

NOW, HEAD BACK TO "PROJECT CONTROL"! THERE'S STILL A LOT *MORE* TO BE DONE!

I'VE GOT TO BREAK THE NEWS TO *BETTY ROSS*... AND TO THE BOY, *JONES*!

AND AT THAT MOMENT, GENERAL ROSS'S DAUGHTER IS INCREDULOUSLY LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT BRUCE BANNER FROM RICK JONES HIMSELF..!

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT, RICK! YOU MUST BE *LYING*! YOU *MUST* BE!

NO, MISS ROSS! IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD MAJOR TALBOT!

BRUCE BANNER AND THE HULK ARE THE *SAME MAN*! KINDA LIKE DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE!

I..I MEAN, THEY *WERE* THE SAME MAN..!

I CAN *TELL* ABOUT IT NOW BECAUSE...THEY'RE BOTH...*DEAD*!

IT *CAN'T* BE! THE HULK IS *EVIL*...*DANGEROUS*... A *MENACE*!

IT ALL HAPPENED WHEN DR. BANNER SAVED MY LIFE BY SHIELDING ME FROM A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION! *HE* TOOK THE WHOLE IMPACT HIMSELF... AND IT TURNED HIM INTO...THE *HULK*!

BUT, HE CAN'T *HELP* HIMSELF... DON'TCHA SEE? IT'S NOT HIS *FAULT*!

I *LOVED* BRUCE BANNER! I..I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK OF HIM AS...A *MONSTER!* HE WAS SO KIND..SO GENTLE ... HE WAS THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN IN THE *WORLD!*

SURE HE WAS, MISS ROSS! NOTHING I SAID CAN CHANGE *THAT!* EVEN WHEN HE WAS THE *HULK* HE WASN'T REALLY SO BAD... PEOPLE JUST *MISUNDERSTOOD* HIM... THEY MADE HIM *ANGRY!*

AWW, BUT WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE! THEY'RE BOTH GONE NOW... NOTHING MATTERS ANY MORE!

BUT, THE WORDS ARE NO SOONER OUT OF RICK JONES' MOUTH, WHEN ...

BETTY! I DID IT! I *DID* IT! *I'VE TRAPPED THE HULK!!*

OH, NO! *NO!*

THAT MEANS ..HE'S STILL *ALIVE!!* AND I..I BETRAYED HIS *SECRET!!*

AND, BACK AT THE PIT IN WHICH THE GREEN GOLIATH IS IMPRISONED ...

I WISH THE *MAJOR* WOULD GET HERE! THIS WAS ALL *HIS* IDEA!

YEAH! EVEN THOUGH TALBOT CLAIMS HE'S *HELPLESS*, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE HULK IS *LOOKIN'* AT US!

HELPLESS?? HOW CAN ANYONE AS STRONG AS HE IS *EVER* BE HELPLESS?? KEEP THOSE *GUNS* TRAINED ON HIM!

A LOT OF GOOD *THEY'LL* DO IF THAT *PIT* DOESN'T HOLD HIM! *LOOK*... HE'S BRACING HIMSELF!! HE'S GONNA *TRY* SOMETHING!!

HE'S REACHING FOR THE *WALL*...TRYING TO CLIMB UP!

HE TOUCHED THE *TRIP WIRES!!* THEY SET OFF THE *ANTI-MATTER* ELEMENTS, WHICH EXPLODE ON CONTACT!

ZAP!

ARRGHHH!!

NOW HE'S *REALLY* MAD! HE'S GETTING SET TO *LEAP* OUT!

STAND FAST! THE CRISS-CROSS SURFACE BEAMS WILL STOP HIM! ...THEY'VE *GOT* TO!

NOTHING CAN KEEP THE *HULK* HERE!! *NOTHING!*

ZAP!

UNHHH!

NOTHING... EXCEPT THE STRONGEST CONCENTRATION OF *ANTI-MATTER BEAMS* EVER FOCUSED ON ONE TARGET!!

IT *WORKED!* NOTHING BUT *ANTI-MATTER* COULD HAVE DONE IT! HE CAN'T BREAK THROUGH!

THOSE BEAMS WOULD HAVE *ANNIHILATED* A REGIMENT... BUT THEY ONLY GAVE *HIM* A HEADACHE!

WHAT'SA DIFFERENCE? THEY *STOPPED* 'IM! AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!

U.S. RMY

HOLD IT, MISTER! NO ONE COMES IN HERE WITHOUT AUTHORIZ...

OH! IT'S *YOU,* DR. ZAXON!

I HEARD YOU'VE CAPTURED THE *HULK!* I MUST *SEE* HIM! WHERE *IS* HE?

ANTI-MATTER PROJECTOR M1

IN THE PIT RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF YOU, SIR! BUT BE *CAREFUL!*

WHAT A GREAT DAY FOR SCIENCE! IT'S REALLY *HIM!*

THIS INSTRUMENT WILL GIVE ME AN APPROXIMATE READING ON HIS PHYSIO-LOGICAL AND MOLECULAR MAKEUP!

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, SIR! HE'S CAPABLE OF *ANYTHING!*

I'LL GET *FREE!!* I'LL SMASH YOU *ALL!* YOU CAN'T *STOP* ME! YOU CAN'T STOP THE *HULK!*

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THESE *READINGS!* HE'S A VERITABLE BLAST FURNACE OF LIMIT-LESS ORGANIC ENERGY! THERE IS NO WAY TO EVEN *MEASURE* HIS STRENGTH!

IF WE CAN KEEP HIM UNDER CONTROL, THERE'S NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE HARNESSING OF *RAW POWER!*

TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK

DR. ZAXON! I WAS ABOUT TO *CALL* YOU! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE *WORLD,* MAJOR TALBOT!

THEN... THE HULK REALLY *IS* HERE! YOU *HAVE* CAPTURED HIM!

I'VE GOTTA *SEE!* I'VE GOTTA BE SURE HE REALLY *IS* ALIVE...!

IT'S *HIM!* HE'S *NOT* DEAD! BUT... YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM IN A *PIT*, LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL..!

WE CAN, AND WE *WILL*, BOY! HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE US *AGAIN!*

LET *ME* SEE HIM! I'VE GOT TO SEE... TO SATISFY MY-SELF!

NO! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! THAT HORRIBLE GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER *CAN'T* BE BRUCE BANNER!! IT'S A *LIE!* IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! I..I'D RATHER BELIEVE THAT BRUCE IS *DEAD!!*

EASY, BETTY! GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MISS ROSS, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT *IS!* *LOOK* AT 'IM... HE *RECOGNIZES* YOU!

EVEN AS THEY WATCH, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH RICK JONES HAS SPOKEN THE TRUTH, AS THE BESTIAL FACE *SOFTENS* AT THE SIGHT OF THE GIRL...

FOR A FEW FLEETING SECONDS, IN SOME DIM RECESS OF THE HULK'S BRAIN, THE PART WHICH WAS ONCE BRUCE BANNER SUDDENLY *REMEMBERS*... BUT THEN... THE SENSATION VANISHES...

...LEAVING IN ITS WAKE ONLY THE SNARLING, RAMPAGING CREATURE WHO ROARS HIS DEFIANCE FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR...!

I'LL GET *FREE!* I'M THE *HULK!* THE *HULK!* THE *HULK!*

HE *DIDN'T* KNOW ME! HE *DIDN'T* REMEMBER! HE'S *NOT* BRUCE BANNER! HE'S *NOT!*

THERE, THERE, BETTY! I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK, NOW! PER-HAPS THE BOY *DID* LIE TO ME..!

THINK WHAT YOU *WANT* TO! WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* WE CAN'T BRING DR. BANNER BACK *ANYWAY!*

I'LL TAKE OVER NOW!

MAJOR, I WANT YOU TO OBTAIN *FULL AUTHORITY* FOR ME TO *EXPERIMENT* ON THAT CREATURE! I MAY BE ABLE TO *DUPLICATE* THE CONDITIONS THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE *HULK!*

THUS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FINALLY LEARN WHETHER OR NOT HE *HAS* A DOUBLE IDENTITY!

I'LL CONTACT GENERAL ROSS AT *ONCE*, DOCTOR!

IN THE MEANTIME, I'M PUTTING THE HULK IN *YOUR* CHARGE! HE'S A MATTER FOR *SCIENCE* TO COPE WITH NOW!

YOU..YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING TO *HARM* HIM, WILL YOU, DOC? HE CAN'T *HELP* BEING WHAT HE IS!

THE INTERESTS OF *SCIENCE* ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT BRUTE'S WELFARE, YOUNG MAN!

BUT..!

AT EASE, JONES! DR. ZAXON KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

BUT, MINUTES LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS LAB...

THE *FOOLS!* INDEED I *DO* KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! I'M GOING TO MAKE *MYSELF* THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH!

IF BANNER REALLY *IS* THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE, HE'S *DOOMED!* FOR I SHALL *DESTROY* THE HULK BY TRANSFERRING HIS LIMITLESS *ORGANIC ENERGY* INTO A MACHINE WHICH ONLY *I* SHALL CONTROL!!"

DANGER

HIGH VOLTAGE

THE RESULTING *POWER* WILL ENABLE ME TO PERFORM SEEMING *MIRACLES!* I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE *WEATHER* BY BOMBARDING THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE US AND CAUSING RAIN, SNOW, OR ICE..!

"I'LL CONTROL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BY CAUSING UNDERGROUND *VOLCANOS* TO ERUPT AT ANY LOCATION I CHOOSE..!"

"USING SUCH ORGANIC ENERGY, I COULD EVEN CAUSE *APPARITIONS* TO APPEAR IN THE AIR...

...WHICH WOULD GIVE ME CONTROL OF PRIMITIVE NATIONS, BY FILLING THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES WITH AWE AND DREAD!"

THE *HULK* HASN'T THE BRAINS TO KNOW HOW TO *REALLY* HARNESS ALL THE POWER WHICH IS HIS! THAT IS WHY HE MUST *DIE!*

WHEN I HAVE ALL THAT MATCHLESS ORGANIC ENERGY UNDER MY *OWN* CONTROL, I'LL BE *MASTER OF EARTH!*

THEY CALL THE *HULK* A MENACE! *HA!* THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT THE WORD *MEANS* UNTIL *MY* PLANS HAVE BORNE FRUIT!

"NO ARMY WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME! NO FORCE CAN STAND UP TO ME! I'LL POSSESS THE POWER OF THE HULK... AND I'LL *MAGNIFY* IT FOR MY OWN PURPOSES! I'LL BE *ZAXON THE FIRST*, MASTER OF MANKIND!"

THAT NIGHT, ATTIRED IN A SPECIAL PROTECTIVE ARMORED SUIT, DR. KONRAD ZAXON MAKES WHAT SEEMS TO BE A ROUTINE PHONE CALL TO THE TROOPS ASSIGNED TO GUARDING THE *HULK*..!

YOU MEN ARE RELIEVED FROM DUTY! YOU ARE ALL *DISMISSED!*

I ORDER YOU TO LEAVE BY THE AUTHORITY OF GENERAL ROSS! I SHALL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY!

IT IS *DONE!* NOW THERE IS NOTHING TO INTERFERE WITH MY MONUMENTAL MISSION!

ALL I NEED DO IS GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE *HULK* TO AIM THIS *ORGANIC ENERGY ATTRACTOR* AT HIM! WITHIN SECONDS HIS *STRENGTH* WILL BE *MINE* TO CONTROL!

BUT THAT WONT MATTER TO *HIM*--- BECAUSE HIS LIFE WILL BE *ENDED!*

THE *PIT* AT LAST! FIRST I'LL SHUT OFF THE *ANTI-MATTER RAYS!* FOR, I *WANT* HIM TO CLIMB OUT... TO HIS *DEATH!*

CLICK!

HULK!! DO YOU *HEAR* ME?

I'M *WAITING* FOR YOU, YOU UNSPEAKABLE MONSTER! YOU CAN *LEAVE* YOUR LITTLE PRISON NOW...IF YOU DARE FACE THE MAN WHO IS YOUR *MASTER!*

NO ONE SPEAKS THAT WAY TO THE *HULK*---

THUMM!

...AND *LIVES!!*

I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE WORDS, YOU BRAINLESS BRUTE---!

CRUNTCH!

...FOR, THEY ARE THE *LAST* YOU SHALL EVER UTTER!!

LAP!

NEXT ISSUE: "The FURY of THE HULK!"

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

79 MAY

TALES TO ASTONISH

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

IND.

"THE TITAN AND THE TORMENT!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"The TITAN and the TORMENT!"

YOU'RE DOOMED, YOU BRAINLESS BRUTE! WITHIN SECONDS, MY ORGANIC ENERGY ATTRACTOR WILL DRAIN YOUR STRENGTH FROM YOU--AND, AS YOUR LIFE SLIPS AWAY, YOUR POWER SHALL BECOME MINE!
ZAP!
IT'S MEMORY-REFRESHER TIME, STUDENTS, AND WE MADE IT AS PAINLESS AS WE COULD! SEE--?
WITH BRUCE BANNER GONE, THE MAN KNOWN AS DR. ZAXON HAS BEEN HIRED BY THE MISSILE COMMAND TO REPLACE HIM! BUT, NO ONE SUSPECTS THAT THE TREACHEROUS ZAXON HAS ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE--TO DESTROY THE CAPTIVE HULK, AND IN SO DOING, TO MAKE HIMSELF THE STRONGEST MORTAL ON EARTH!
YOU KNOW OUR MOTTO, TIGER--IF WE HAVE TO BE DULL, AT LEAST WE'RE BRIEF!

HULKISH STORY BY: STAN LEE

HULKABLE LAYOUTS BY: JACK KIRBY

HULKING ARTWORK BY: BILL EVERETT

HULKSOME LETTERING BY: ARTIE SIMEK

YOU'RE *WEAKENING!* I KNEW IT! I *KNEW* THERE HAD TO BE A *LIMIT* TO YOUR ENERGY! I GAMBLED MY *LIFE* ON THAT ONE FACT--AND I'VE *WON!*

BUT--WHY DON'T YOU *FALL??* YOU SHOULD BE DRAINED OF ALL YOUR *POWER* BY NOW!! WHAT'S HOLDING YOU *UP??!*

ZZZ

BUT THEN, FROM SOME DIM RECESS OF HIS BRUTISH BRAIN, A GLIMMER OF THOUGHT BREAKS THRU--FROM THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS ONCE **BRUCE BANNER**--!

CAN'T GET UP! BATTLE OVER! HE'S **DEAD**!-- NO ONE TO **FIGHT** NOW!

THEN, THE BESTIAL BRAIN CLOUDS OVER AGAIN--AND ONLY ONE EMOTION REMAINS--A SENSE OF TOWERING **RAGE**--!

ALWAYS MEN HUNT ME!! **ALWAYS** THEY TRY TO KILL ME!! **WHY? WHY??** THEY'RE SO **PUNY**--SO **WEAK**-- BUT **STILL** THEY HOUND ME--!

WHY? WHY MUST--?? **UHH!!** **VOICES!**

WHAT WAS GOIN' **ON** IN THERE?

IT MUST BE THE **HULK!!** HE MUSTA BROKEN **FREE!**

DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE! SOUND THE **ALARM!!**

BUT--**DR. ZAXON** WAS IN THERE!! IF THE HULK BROKE LOOSE--THEN--

ZAXON WON'T HAVE A **CHANCE!!** WE'VE GOTTA **DO** SOMETHIN'!!

MEN COME!! BUT-- THEY WON'T FIND THE **HULK!**

THOOM!

THOOM!

THOOM!

HE'S LEAPING **AWAY!**

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE STARTLED TROOPS HAVE PEERED OVER THE STEEL FENCE...

ZAXON'S DEAD!! THE HULK MUSTA **KILLED** 'IM! I'VE GOTTA NOTIFY **MAJOR TALBOT!!**

NOW WE KNOW FOR **SURE** THAT HE'S A **KILLER!**

WHAT IN BLAZES IS HE **MADE** OF?? BULLETS JUST BOUNCE **OFF** 'IM!!

CRACK!

MEANWHILE, A SCENE TAKES PLACE SOME MILES AWAY WHICH IS DESTINED TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT UPON THE STRANGE SAGA OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK--!

THAT'S IT, **HERCULES!** EAT ALL YOU **WANT** TO! YOU'VE GOT TO BE AT YOUR FIGHTING PEAK WHEN YOU MEET THE HEAD OF THE STUDIO, IN HOLLYWOOD!

HERCULES IS **ALWAYS** AT HIS FIGHTING PEAK! I EAT BECAUSE IT DOTH GIVE ME **PLEASURE!**

THE STUDIO HAS BEEN SEEKING SOMEONE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF *HERCULES* FOR MONTHS! I'LL RECEIVE THE BIGGEST *BONUS* OF MY CAREER WHEN I INTRODUCE *YOU* TO--

STILL YOUR TONGUE, PUNY ONE!! I WOULD LISTEN TO THE MELODY FROM WITHIN THIS MAGIC BOX!

TERRIFIC, PAL! YOU'RE REALLY BEGINNING TO *LIVE* THE PART!

WE INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL *BULLETIN!* IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE INCREDIBLE *HULK,* AFTER MURDERING A CIVILIAN SCIENTIST, HAS ESCAPED FROM--

BAH! OF WHAT USE ARE *WORDS?!!* WHERE HAS THE *MELODY* GONE??

EASY, FRIEND! THE STUDIO WILL HAVE TO *PAY* FOR THAT RADIO!

THWAK!

SO, THE *HULK'S* AT LARGE AGAIN! I SURE WOULDN'T WANNA BE THE NEXT VICTIM THAT *HE* RUNS INTO!

HULK?? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WORD--BUT, IF HE BE *MORTAL,* REST THOU ASSURED THAT THE POWER OF *HERCULES* CAN STOP HIM *INDEED!*

THEY CLA'M *NOTHING* CAN HURT HIM!

SAY! WOULDN'T *THAT* BE SOMETHING?!! IMAGINE, IF YOU AND HE *MET!* IT'D BE A PRESS AGENT'S *DREAM!*

AND, BACK AT THE MISSILE BASE ITSELF, WE FIND--

YOU'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH *HERE,* BETTY! AS FOR ME, I WON'T RETURN UNTIL I'VE RECAPTURED THAT GREEN-SKINNED KILLER!

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THE *HULK* KILLED HIM? NOBODY *SAW* IT HAPPEN!

DON'T BE A *FOOL,* BOY! IT *HAD* TO BE THE HULK!

NASA

BUT, GLEN--WHAT IF RICK WAS *RIGHT* ABOUT THE HULK REALLY BEING *BRUCE BANNER?* MUST *BRUCE* DIE FOR THE *HULK'S* CRIMES?

I'LL *TRY* TO TAKE THE HULK *ALIVE,* BETTY--IF IT'S HUMANLY POSSIBLE!

THAT'S WHY I'M BRINGING *RICK* WITH ME! HE'S THE ONLY ONE THE HULK MIGHT *TRUST!*

IT'S LIKE SOME MAD FANTASTIC *NIGHTMARE!* HAS THE MAN I LOVE REALLY BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO SOME SORT OF UNSPEAKABLE *MONSTER??*

HAVE I FINALLY LEARNED THAT BRUCE BANNER STILL *LIVES*--ONLY TO KNOW I'VE LOST HIM AGAIN--FOREVER?

MILES AWAY, AS TEARS BEGIN TO WELL IN THE EYES OF BETTY ROSS--

PLANES! CHASING ME!

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH THE HULK!

THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!

I'M THRU RUNNING! NOW THE HULK FIGHTS BACK!

THEY THINK HULK IS HELPLESS!

BUT I CAN MAKE WEAPON OUT OF ANYTHING! HULK IS NEVER HELPLESS!

WHIRRRR

RRAK!

THEY'RE DIVING! LOWER! LOWER! GOOD! NOW--NOW I HAVE A CHANCE!

SKREEEEEEEEEEE

WHIFF

HAH! SOME I HIT! OTHERS TURN BACK! THE HULK WINS!

SKRAK!

SOMETHING RIPPED UP THE TRACKS! WE CAN'T PROCEED UNTIL--HEY! WHAT'S THAT?!?!

USE YOUR EYES, MAN! THAT'S WHAT RIPPED UP THE TRACKS! AND I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE'S HEADIN' FOR US! IT--IT'S THE HULK--HIMSELF!

OTHERS COME! HULK IS THRU RUNNING! HULK WILL FIGHT EVERYONE!

EASY, FELLA! STAY BACK! NO ONE'S LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT! --NOT WITH YOU!

BUT THEN, *ANOTHER* VOICE IS HEARD ABOVE THE DIN--THE DEEP, BOOMING, SUBTLY TAUNTING VOICE OF--THE IMMORTAL FROM *OLYMPUS!*

ANY WHO DARE INTERFERE WITH MY JOURNEY MUST BE PREPARED TO ANSWER TO *HERCULES!*

IT'S THE *HULK*--SPOILIN' FOR A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE! AND *I'M* ON THE SPOT WITH *HERCULES!*

AFTER THIS, I CAN WRITE MY OWN TICKET IN HOLLYWOOD! I'LL BE KING OF THE PUBLICITY MEN!

A BRUTE WITH *GREEN SKIN!* IS THERE NO *END* TO THE WONDERS ON THIS WORLD OF MORTALS?

PREPARE THYSELF, GROTESQUE ONE--FOR A LESSON FROM *HERCULES* HIMSELF!

AT LAST! SOMEONE BIG ENOUGH FOR HULK TO *SMASH!*

THEN, BEFORE THE PROUD IMMORTAL REALIZES WHAT HAS BEFALLEN--!

AFTER TODAY, *NONE* WILL ATTACK HULK AGAIN! NO MORE WILL HULK BE HUNTED LIKE BEAST!

WHOK

FROM NOW ON, IT IS *HULK* WHO HUNTS --WHO ATTACKS-- WHO THREATENS!

YOUR POWER IS GREATER THAN ANY MORTAL HAS THE RIGHT TO POSSESS! BUT, BY THE GOLDEN VALES OF *OLYMPUS*, THAT POWER NOW SHALL BE THY *UNDOING!*

HAH! YOU STILL *FIGHT!* GOOD! *GOOD!* THIS IS WHAT HULK *NEEDS!* THIS IS WHAT HULK CAN *UNDERSTAND!*

BA-OOM!

WITLESS MORTAL! THOU HAST *HAD* THY SPORT! NOW, 'TIS TIME FOR *HERCULES* TO HAVE *HIS*....!

ARRRGHHHH!

TREASURE THIS MOMENT, GROTESQUE ONE!

THOU ART *HONORED* ABOVE ALL OTHERS--FOR THOU HAST BEEN *SMITTEN* BY THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL!

ROK!

AND NOW, LET THERE BE AN *END* TO THIS TABLEAU! IN TRUTH, 'TIS BENEATH THE *DIGNITY* OF AN *OLYMPIAN* TO INDULGE IN SPORT SUCH AS THIS!

RUMPPH!

BUT, BEFORE THE DISDAINFUL STRONGMAN CAN RELEASE HIS INCREDIBLE FOE, THE *HULK* TWISTS HIS MASSIVE BODY AROUND, UNLEASHING A SUDDEN BLOW--!

BY THE ZESTY ZITHER OF ZEUS! NEVER DID I SUSPECT SUCH *POWER* MIGHT DWELL WITHIN THE LIMBS OF A MORTAL!

NO ONE DEFEATS THE *HULK!*

UGGH!

AT LAST I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE *GOD OF THUNDER* HIMSELF HATH FOUND THIS PLANET SO TO HIS LIKING!

KRAK!

BUT, TIME ENOUGH *LATER* FOR EMPTY WORDS--!

UHHH--!

THERE IS YET MORE *BATTLE* TO BE WAGED!

TO *YOU* THIS IS *GAME!* NOW *HULK* WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND! BATTLE WILL SOON BE OVER-- FOR *YOU!*

VERILY, 'TIS BEYOND *BELIEF!* YOU THINK TO SUBDUE *HERCULES* WITH NAUGHT BUT A *BEAR HUG??!!*

NOW, FOR THINE INSOLENCE *ALONE* MUST THOU BE *PUNISHED!*

YOU-- CAN'T-- BREAK-- FREE--!

ART THOU BEREFT OF *REASON?* THOU SPEAKEST TO THE SON OF *ZEUS!*

ONLY THY MOST SHATTERING *DEFEAT* CAN SERVE TO SATISFY ME *NOW!*

WHOP!

NOW AM I DONE WITH *TOYING* WITH THEE!

THUS, LET THEE BE *IMPRISONED,* TILL IT SHALL PLEASE ME TO ALLOW THY RELEASE!

RRRAK

AHH! THUS, *ANOTHER* GLORIOUS VICTORY IS ADDED TO THE LUSTROUS LEGEND OF *HERCULES!*

PUNCH

BUT, SECONDS LATER...

BOOM!

NOW--HULK STRIKES!!

THOU ART AGAIN FREE??? TRULY, MY ANGER BEGINS TO MOUNT! A VANQUISHED FOE SHOULD REMAIN THUS VANQUISHED!

TALK! TALK! TALK! ONLY ACTION COUNTS! WORDS CAN'T STOP HULK!

HOOT

BUT SUDDENLY, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE, A BLISTERING BARRAGE OF GIANT ARTILLERY SHELLS COMES SCREAMING DOWN FROM THE HILLS ABOVE--!

EEE-EE E-E-E-E

AND, INSTANTANEOUSLY, HERCULES IS RELIEVED OF THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO DISPOSE OF THE GIGANTIC BOULDER WHICH HE HOLDS...!

KOWW

THEN, ONCE AGAIN, HALF-BURIED IN THE DIM RECESSES OF THE HULK'S FOGGY BRAIN, A GLIMMER OF INTELLIGENCE FROM THE PART THAT IS STILL BRUCE BANNER SEEMS TO MOMENTARILY SEEP THRU--

GUNS--IN HILLS ALL AROUND ME!

ARMY IS CLOSING IN! TOO MANY! EVEN HULK HASN'T POWER TO FIGHT THEM ALL! BUT, STILL TIME TO ESCAPE--!

THUS, WITH ONE SUDDEN, PRODIGIOUS LEAP, THE GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN BEHEMOTH SOARS INTO THE AIR LIKE A RAMPAGING PROJECTILE, LEAVING HIS ERSTWHILE ENEMIES TO HELPLESSLY WATCH HIS DEPARTURE, FAR, FAR BELOW--!

THOOM!

HE'S GONE! WE'VE LOST HIM AGAIN!

HERCULES! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?? IF--IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU--I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE IN HOLLYWOOD AGAIN!

NEVER HAVE I BEHELD SUCH AN ANTAGONIST! NEVER HAVE I FOUGHT SUCH A MORTAL!

SAY! HOW AM I GONNA GET YOU TO THE COAST IN TIME? IT'LL TAKE A WEEK TO REPAIR THESE TRACKS!

HERCULES HAS SPENT TIME ENOUGH IN THIS BARREN PLACE! WE SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE!

I ADMIRE YOUR OPTIMISM, MY FRIEND --BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S HOPELESSLY MISPLACED!

HAVE YOU THUS SOON FORGOTTEN? I AM HERCULES! THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND MY PROWESS!

L-LOOK! HE'S CARRYING THE CARS ACROSS THE BREACH IN THE TRACKS--!

AND--HE'S ASSEMBLING THEM AGAIN--ON THE OTHER SIDE!

WE ALL SEE IT! WE'RE ALL WATCHING HIM! BUT--IT-IT STILL ISN'T POSSIBLE!!

YET, MOMENTS LATER, THE SPEEDY STREAMLINER IS AGAIN STREAKING FOR THE WEST COAST...

HERCULES--YOU CAN TELL ME--I'M YOUR FRIEND--HOW DO YOU DO IT?? WHAT'S THE GIMMICK?

THY VOICE OFFENDS ME! BE THOU SILENT AND BRING ME MORE FOOD! IS THERE NOT AN ENTIRE OX IN YON KITCHEN?

STRANGE INDEED ARE THE WORKINGS OF FATE! HAVING DISPLAYED HIS POWER BEFORE AN AWESTRUCK ASSEMBLAGE, HERCULES IS HAILED AS THE GREATEST OF HEROES...

AND YET, AFTER DISPLAYING HIS POWER, WE FIND THE HULK FLEEING FOR HIS LIFE, LIKE A BEAST AT BAY!

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME NOW!

THOOM!

THEN, AS THE SLOWLY-MOUNTING, EVER-SIMMERING FURY RAGES WITHIN HIM, HE THINKS HIS DARK AND LONELY THOUGHTS--ONE HUMAN BEING--HUNTED--HOUNDED --WITH ALL MANKIND AGAINST HIM!

NEXT ISSUE:

TYRANNUS

'NUFF SAID!

Tales to Astonish Hulk unused pinup pencils
by Steve Ditko

Courtesy ComicLink

Tales to Astonish #78, page 8 original art
by Jack Kirby & Bill Everett

T. ASTONISH 78

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IT'S *HIM!* HE'S *NOT* DEAD! BUT... YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM IN A *PIT*, LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL...!

WE CAN, AND WE *WILL*, BOY! HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE US *AGAIN!*

LET *ME* SEE HIM! I'VE GOT TO SEE... TO SATISFY MYSELF!

NO! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! THAT HORRIBLE GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER *CAN'T* BE BRUCE BANNER!! IT'S A *LIE!* IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! I--I'D RATHER BELIEVE THAT BRUCE IS *DEAD!!*

EASY, BETTY! GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MISS ROSS, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT *IS!* LOOK AT 'IM... HE *RECOGNIZES* YOU!

EVEN AS THEY WATCH, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH RICK JONES HAS SPOKEN THE TRUTH, AS THE BESTIAL FACE *SOFTENS* AT THE SIGHT OF THE GIRL ---

FOR A FEW FLEETING SECONDS, IN SOME DIM RECESS OF THE HULK'S BRAIN, THE PART WHICH WAS ONCE BRUCE BANNER SUDDENLY *REMEMBERS*... BUT THEN... THE SENSATION VANISHES ---

...LEAVING IN ITS WAKE ONLY THE SNARLING, RAMPAGING CREATURE WHO ROARS HIS DEFIANCE FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR...!

I'LL GET *FREE!* I'M THE *HULK!* THE *HULK!* THE *HULK!*

HE *DIDN'T* KNOW ME! HE *DIDN'T* REMEMBER! HE'S *NOT* BRUCE BANNER! HE'S *NOT!*

THERE, THERE, BETTY! I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK, NOW! PERHAPS THE BOY *DID* LIE TO ME...!

THINK WHAT YOU *WANT* TO! WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* WE CAN'T BRING DR. BANNER BACK *ANYWAY!*

I'LL TAKE OVER NOW!

MAJOR, I WANT YOU TO OBTAIN *FULL AUTHORITY* FOR ME TO *EXPERIMENT* ON THAT CREATURE! I MAY BE ABLE TO *DUPLICATE* THE CONDITIONS THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE *HULK!*

THUS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FINALLY LEARN WHETHER OR NOT HE *HAS* A DOUBLE IDENTITY!

I'LL CONTACT GENERAL ROSS AT *ONCE*, DOCTOR!

A

8

Courtesy The Richard Howell/Carol Kalish Collection

Tales to Astonish #79, page 3 original art
by Jack Kirby & Bill Everett

TALES To · #79 Sans retouch.

BUT THEN, FROM SOME DIM RECESS OF HIS BRUTISH BRAIN, A GLIMMER OF THOUGHT BREAKS THRU--FROM THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS ONCE ***BRUCE BANNER--!***

CAN'T GET UP! BATTLE OVER! HE'S ***DEAD!***--NO ONE TO ***FIGHT*** NOW!

THEN, THE BESTIAL BRAIN CLOUDS OVER AGAIN--AND ONLY ONE EMOTION REMAINS--A SENSE OF TOWERING ***RAGE--!***

ALWAYS MEN HUNT ME!! ***ALWAYS*** THEY TRY TO KILL ME!! ***WHY? WHY??*** THEY'RE SO ***PUNY***--SO ***WEAK***--BUT ***STILL*** THEY HOUND ME--!

WHY? WHY MUST--?? ***UHH!!*** ***VOICES!***

WHAT WAS GOIN' ***ON*** IN THERE?

IT MUST BE THE ***HULK!!*** HE MUSTA BROKEN ***FREE!***

DON'T JUST ***STAND*** THERE! SOUND THE ***ALARM!!***

BUT--***DR. ZAXON*** WAS IN THERE!! IF THE HULK BROKE LOOSE--THEN--

ZAXON WON'T HAVE A ***CHANCE!!*** WE'VE GOTTA ***DO*** SOMETHIN'!!

MEN COME!! BUT--THEY WON'T FIND THE ***HULK!***

THOOM!

HE'S LEAPING ***AWAY!***

THOOM!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE STARTLED TROOPS HAVE PEERED OVER THE STEEL FENCE ---

ZAXON'S DEAD!! THE HULK MUSTA ***KILLED*** 'IM! I'VE GOTTA NOTIFY ***MAJOR TALBOT!!***

NOW WE KNOW FOR ***SURE*** THAT HE'S A ***KILLER!***

WHAT IN BLAZES IS HE ***MADE*** OF?? BULLETS JUST BOUNCE ***OFF*** 'IM!!

CRACK

MEANWHILE, A SCENE TAKES PLACE SOME MILES AWAY WHICH IS DESTINED TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT UPON THE STRANGE SAGA OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK--!

THAT'S IT, ***HERCULES!*** EAT ALL YOU ***WANT*** TO! YOU'VE GOT TO BE AT YOUR FIGHTING PEAK WHEN YOU MEET THE HEAD OF THE STUDIO, IN HOLLYWOOD!

HERCULES IS ***ALWAYS*** AT HIS FIGHTING PEAK! I EAT BECAUSE IT DOTH GIVE ME ***PLEASURE!***

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust out into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful super-hero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

STEVE DITKO

The inscrutable Steve Ditko began his career in comics in the 1950s, drawing for Charlton Comics and some of the usual science fiction, horror and mystery titles of the era. His style, however, was anything but "the usual," and it would prove to be as instantly recognizable as some of the iconic characters he would have a hand in creating. His clean and lean figure work somehow took on a life singularly its own, often springing idiosyncratically across spare backgrounds, channeling the kind of comic art energy that few others dared to attempt.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1927, he studied illustration under Jerry Robinson at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School in New York. Through the early 1950s, he embarked on his career in comic storytelling by penciling the odd, otherworldly tales of books like *Space Adventures* and *Strange Suspense Stories* for Charlton. His reputation grew as a draftsman who mixed powerfully evocative images into otherwise standard comics fare.

Recruited to join Stan Lee's Atlas Comics in 1958, Steve's nuances were a noticeable contrast to Jack Kirby's bombast, and together they acted as the prime movers that artistically guided the new comics group. New titles like *Tales to Astonish* and *Tales of Suspense* joined overhauled titles like *Journey Into Mystery* and *Strange Tales*, with Steve's eerie, *Twilight Zone*-tinged shorts adding a hint of ominous paranoia to the overall texture of those anthologies. His style was so one-of-a-kind that he eventually got a "monster book" to call completely his own: In 1961, *Amazing Adventures* was retitled *Amazing Adult Fantasy* and given over completely to Steve and his profoundly wild imagination.

But it was a certain wall-crawler who premiered later the next fall that would confirm Steve Ditko's place in comics history. In 1962, in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy*, he and Stan Lee brought to life Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man. The troubled teen hero proved so popular that he was given his own series, the first 38 issues of which

are ensconced as one of the all-time great sequences in comics history. Spider-Man is one of the world's most recognizable icons, and it was Steve who articulated the look and feel of the web-spinner. Another co-creation, Dr. Strange, was an incredible influence on artists for years to come, with Ditko's mind-bending delineations of the Master of the Mystic Arts setting all kinds of standards for pop art psychedelia.

Leaving Marvel Comics under still unexplained circumstances in 1966, he worked for Charlton again, drawing titles like *Captain Atom* and *Blue Beetle*. In the 1970s, he worked for DC, creating *Shade, the Changing Man*, and independently published tales of his character, "Mr. A," who exemplified Ditko's firm belief in Objectivism. In the latter part of his career, he returned to Marvel, working there in the late '70s and throughout the '80s. As of this writing, Steve is retired from professional comics work.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 into a gritty upbringing on the streets of New York's Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the more familiar name of Jack Kirby, but his experiences on the street would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations like him would never dream of going.

After some early strip work helped get his name out to prospective employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip, and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed *Captain America* for Timely Comics, and Jack immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon & Kirby were working with National Publications, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like *Sandman* and *Manhunter*. Like many of his peers, he served honorably in WWII, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

In the '50s, Jack returned to comics, helping establish the romance genre with its first title, *Young Romance Comics*. More genre work followed for Timely/Atlas, with a prolific output that covered western, war, and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled bombast and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters he created. The King's way of doing things was so popular that it set the tone for many of Stan Lee's editorial decisions throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated onto books by drawing over Jack's layouts. Jack left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling the scripting chores as well as the art duties. Jack's "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the '70s to lend his unbridled imagination to a new cast of creations: *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur*, and *Machine Man*. In addition, he returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Jack continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

DICK AYERS

Born in 1924 in Ossining, New York, Dick Ayers was drafted into comic art by Burne Hogarth and wound up attending his Cartoonists and Illustrators School. Within a short time he was turning in his first work for Vin Sullivan's Magazine Enterprises, drawing comics like *Jimmy Durante* and Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's infamous *Funnyman*. One of the highlights of his early years was his creation of Ghost Rider, the spooky, masked western hero that was later revived at Marvel Comics.

In fact, it was with Marvel, then known as Atlas, that Dick started to gain renown as a multi-skilled artist in both inking and penciling. He was attached to many successful Westerns, like *Wyatt Earp* and *Rawhide Kid*. During the Marvel Age of Comics, Dick was one of the most prolific inkers across a wide variety of titles, and penciling over fifty issues of *Sgt. Fury and the Howling Commandos*. In 2005 Ayers released the third and final volume of his autobiography in graphic novel form.

MIKE ESPOSITO

Considered one of the greatest inkers in the field and a talented penciler in his own right, Mike Esposito made his claim to fame on some of comics' most iconic characters. He began his professional career in 1949 inking the pencils of Ross Andru, a former classmate at the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan with whom he began the Mike/Ross Productions studio. Highlights of their collaboration included war genre work with Robert Kanigher, the Suicide Squad, the Metal Men and drawing a decade-long run on Wonder Woman. Some of his most high-profile work for Marvel was done under the pseudonyms Mickey Demeo or Mickey Dee, embellishing John Romita's earliest work on Spider-Man and a brief stint penciling Hulk in Tales to Astonish. After a late-

'60s run on The Flash with Andru, the pair reunited at Marvel on The Amazing Spider-Man and Marvel Team-Up. He collaborated with nearly every major Marvel penciler by the time he retired from regular work in the late '80s. An inductee into the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame in 2007, Mike passed away in 2010 at the age of 83.

BILL EVERETT

One of the pioneers of comics' Golden Age, Bill Everett is remembered as the creator of Namor, the Sub-Mariner, the character who, along with Carl Burgos' Human Torch, launched pulp publisher Martin Goodman's venture into the world of super heroes with *Marvel Comics* #1. Born in 1917 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Everett held a lifelong fascination with the sea, first realized when he joined the Merchant Marines at the age of 15. By his early twenties he started chasing his second muse to be an artist, joining Centaur Publications, where he developed material alongside Lloyd Jacquet. Their creation of Amazing Man is notable for being one of the earliest attempts at capitalizing on the success of Superman.

He followed Jacquet to help launch a new studio start-up, Funnies, Inc., where he was part of a small stable of artists that helped package content for comic book publishers. Everett lost no time in merging his two passions, creating the Sub-Mariner in 1939. The character struck such a chord that, in addition to regular appearances in *Marvel Mystery Comics,* he soon merited his own self-titled *Sub-Mariner Comics*. Everett fleshed out the aquatic world of the Sub-Mariner with a supporting cast that included spunky New York City policewoman Betty Dean, the Atlantean Emperor, and cousin Namora, a character that would get her own title later in the decade. Everett's Namor was unpredictably brash, and a scourge against anyone who would get in his way, whether a Nazi spy or a New York City cop! Though toned down in later issues, Everett marked the early Sub-Mariner stories with an anarchic edge that is quite startling even by current standards.

He wrote and drew the first five issues of *Sub-Mariner Comics,* then picked it back up in 1946 with issue #21 and worked steadily on the book until it ceased publication three years later. As the '50s came around, Goodman tapped Everett as one of his top men, giving him *Marvel Boy/Astonishing,* one of the first attempts at revitalizing the waning popularity of super heroes. He also drew memorable issues of *Venus,* after the blonde heroine's comic took a trip into the horror genre. Everett couldn't be kept away from his most famous creation for long, though, returning to a ten-issue run on *Sub-Mariner* (regarded by many as his best work on the character), during the 1953-54 revival of the "Big Three" heroes.

After *Sub-Mariner* was cancelled, Everett spent his time devoted to covers and a few stories for Atlas war and monster books, but after the 1957 Atlas implosion, he left comics for more consistent work. In 1964, he was beckoned back to Stan Lee's fledgling Marvel Comics to launch the new series *Daredevil,* featuring the blind lawyer, Matt Murdock. His input into the character didn't go past the premiere issue, however, as the demands of moonlighting with his current job hurt his ability to turn material in on time. But later in the decade, Everett had the chance to do more Marvel work, drawing Hulk in *Tales to Astonish,* and Dr. Strange in *Strange Tales*. He also paid a return engagement to drawing Sub-Mariner in *Tales to Astonish* and put together a nice run in *Sub-Mariner* #50-58, the last regular run of comics Everett would draw before passing away in 1973.

GIL KANE

A gentleman and true master of the medium, Gil Kane gained elite status as a comic artist through the course of a storied career. The signature smooth and sinuous anatomy of his characters, vertiginous camera angles, and dynamic action present in every page gave Kane's work a language all its own. A language that reflected what to him were twin components of any drawing: grace and power, both irreducible elements of his style.

Gil Kane was born to parents who were Jewish émigrés, in this case from Latvia. Born in 1926 as Eli Katz, his family moved to Brooklyn, NY, three years later. He studied art in high school but left school when he sensed an opportunity was in the offing with MLJ Comics (later Archie Comics), the publisher of *The Shield*. He would also do spot work for the other studios, but with WWII roaring, the young man enlisted in the army and served in the Pacific theater.

Upon his return, he permanently adopted the pseudonym Gil Kane, and got back to the business of creating comics. By the late '50s, when the Silver Age super-hero revival was slowly inching out of quiescence, Kane truly began to make his mark, and in so doing, created what many feel to be the definitive take on the Green Lantern in the pages of *Showcase*. To fill in time in his work schedule, he made a pitch to DC Comics to revive the Golden Age character Doll Man, this time updated with the name The Atom, and here, too, he struck gold.

But it wasn't only DC he worked for, as he would also be turning in pages for Marvel Comics, becoming the first artist to have work bearing his name published simultaneously by both companies. His first work for Marvel included Hulk and Captain America stories, as well as a stint on *Captain Marvel*, which to Gil represented some of his finest work to date.

He would make waves as he settled into his run as penciler of *Amazing Spider-Man* with the notorious "drug issues" from #96-98, which were the first comics of the day to eschew the Comics Code in order to tell a hard-hitting

story highlighting the negative effects of drug use. A few years later, Gil Kane was also behind the drawing board for the pivotal "Death of Gwen Stacy" issues of *Amazing Spider-Man*.

The '70s were a particularly fertile period for Kane, as he became Marvel's top cover artist, delivering countless iconic cover images. Teaming once again with his *Captain Marvel* collaborator, Roy Thomas, Gil gave life to their newly interpreted version of Adam Warlock, and co-created comics' first kung-fu action hero, Iron Fist.

Always searching to expand the audience, format and sophistication of comic art, Kane conceived and illustrated the independent graphic novel, *Blackmark* in 1971, considered by many to be the first American graphic novel. He also created the award-winning daily newspaper strip *Star Hawks* with writer Ron Goulart.

Much to the pleasure of comic-book readers, Gil's work appeared regularly up to the year 2000 with brief stops in the '70s and '80s, as he dabbled in TV animation. He was ushered into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1997, and died three years later at the age of 74, leaving behind a legacy that has inspired generations of fans and artists.

BOB POWELL

Born in 1916 as Stanley Pawlowski, comic artist Bob Powell honed his craft working for the Eisner-Iger studio as part of a workshop of artists that supplied comic book fare to publishers like Timely, Harvey, Quality and others. Much of his work went uncredited or obscured by a cavalcade of pseudonyms, but Bob drew many early stories featuring Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, and actually co-wrote the first story featuring Blackhawk in *Military Comics #1*. A much closer collaboration with his boss occurred when Bob drew Eisner's *Mr. Mystic* strip that accompanied his *Spirit* weekly. As proprietor of his own studio following the end of WWII, Bob continued working in comics but also helped develop the popular *Mars Attacks* trading cards for Topps. He worked sparingly on super-hero material during the Marvel Age of Comics, including layouts to the latter issues of Wally Wood's *Daredevil*, and drawing the last appearances of Giant-Man in *Tales to Astonish*. Bob passed away in 1967.

JOHN ROMITA

Without question one of the most loved and influential artists to grace the pages of Marvel Comics, John Romita was born in 1930 and, fresh out of a fine arts high school, quickly joined the ranks of comic book artists. As was typical of many of his peers, John drew for Atlas, the 1950s incarnation of Marvel Comics, across the many war, Western, horror, and jungle-girl genres published by Martin Goodman. Of special note during this time was John's work on the 1953-54 Commie-smashing revival of Captain America.

As the 1960s dawned, John was for the first time drawing comics for an employer other than Marvel. At DC, he was working exclusively behind the boards of their many romance comics, like *Secret Hearts, Girls' Love Stories,* and *Young Love.* It wasn't until 1966 that he returned to Marvel comics and the super-hero genre in the pages of *Daredevil* #12-19, but that run's main legacy in John's career wasn't drawing Daredevil. Indeed, it was a guest appearance by a certain friendly neighborhood wall-crawler that would be pivotal for both John and comic-book readers worldwide.

After doing such a confident rendering of Spider-Man in the pages of *Daredevil,* it was an easy choice to tap John Romita as the new artist on what was fast becoming Marvel's most important title—*The Amazing Spider-Man.* After a few issues struggling in the mold of Spidey co-creator Steve Ditko, John came into his own—and how! With a bold style regarded as one of the most iconic in comic-book art, John developed a look for Peter Parker and his world that would define the character for years to come. His more muscular and firm figure drawings added a bolder flair to the tone of the book, and his years of drawing beautiful women in DC's romance books paid off big-time with definitive renderings of Gwen Stacy and the introduction of Mary Jane Watson.

For the better part of the next seven years, John drew *The Amazing Spider-Man* (spelled at times by Gil Kane), but that's not the only character he drew for Marvel! He did a brief run on *Fantastic Four,* being the first to draw the book after Jack Kirby's 103-issue tenure, and also drew an acclaimed run on *Captain America* #138-145.

It was about this time when John was anointed art director for Marvel. Once Stan Lee was elevated to publisher, he knew there was only one artist who could help streamline the look and feel of the new age of Marvel Comics in the 1970s, and that was Jazzy John! Though his responsibilities kept him from drawing a monthly series, John still drew countless covers, crafted the look of characters from the Punisher to Wolverine, designed the Spider-Man balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and took to training the next generation of comic-book artists in Marvel's Art Department, known as Romita's Raiders.

To this day, though semi-retired, John steps up to the drawing board to lend his mastery of the medium to the occasional cover or story. Beyond that, though, the Romita legacy is in safekeeping with John Romita, Jr., who is now—much like his father was at the height of his career—setting the tempo for the visual look of Marvel Comics.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS
ALSO AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-13
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-2
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-11
THE BLACK PANTHER VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-5
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-4
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-6
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-2
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-5
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-13
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-6
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-7
IRON FIST VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOL. 1
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-3
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-10
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-5
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOL. 1

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-2
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-5
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

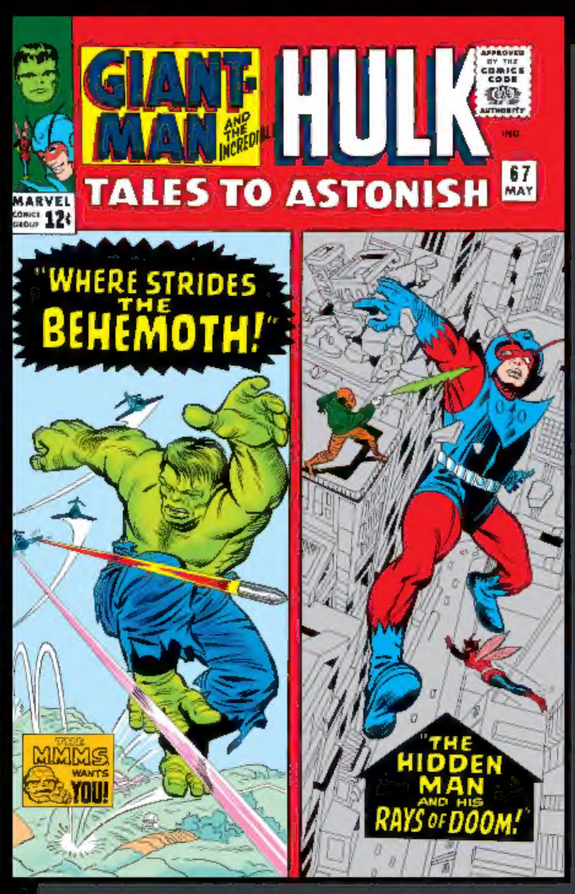
THE MARVEL AGE

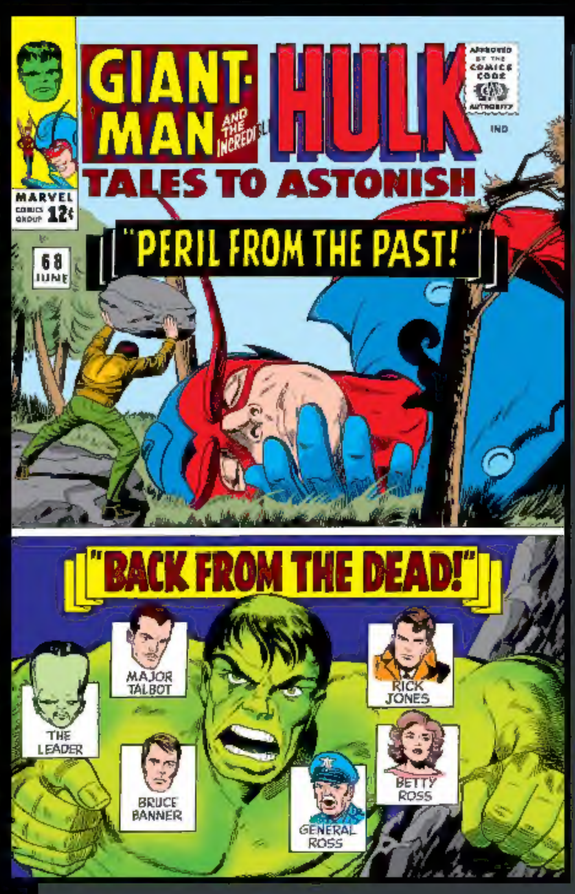
It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

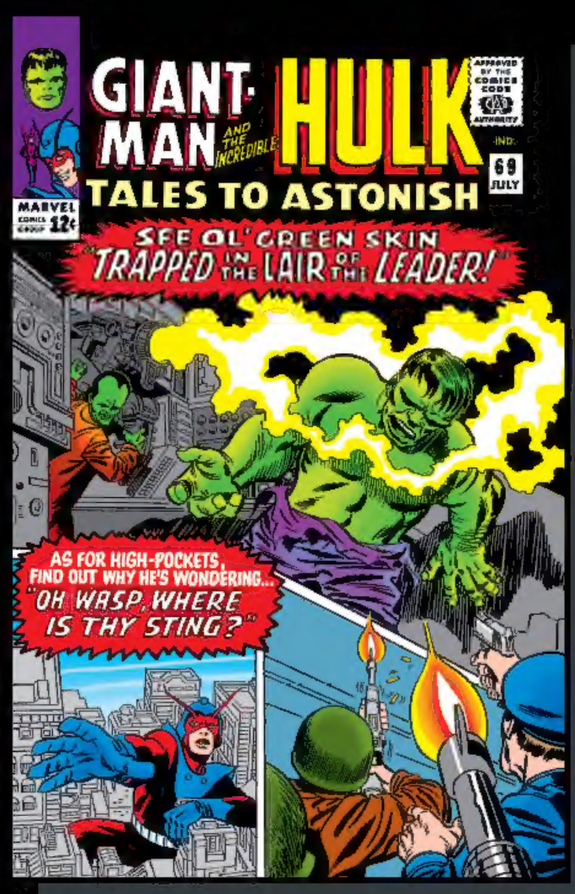
Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

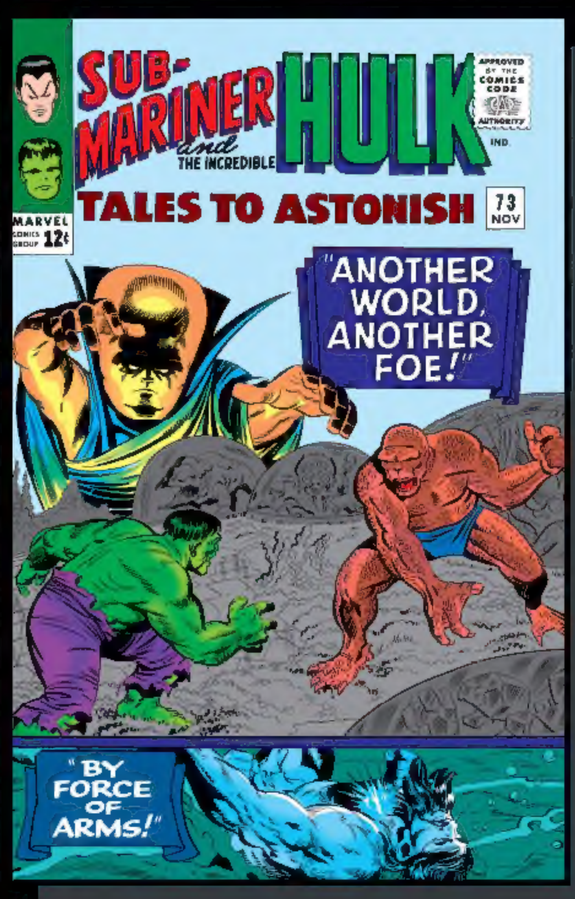
The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

TALES TO ASTONISH
THE INCREDIBLE HULK ...BATTLES GIANT-MAN
59 SEPT.
Watch for The Big SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT In This Issue!!
ANOTHER MARVEL FIRST!!
THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY STORY EVER DRAWN IN WHICH THE HERO (GIANT MAN) NEVER SEES OUR UNEXPECTED MYSTERY VILLAIN!
SPECIAL BONUS FEATURE...
"Let's Learn About HANK and JAN!"
DON'T MISS THE WONDERFUL WASP AND HER DEATH-DEFYING MISSILE RIDE!!


GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK
TALES TO ASTONISH
67 MAY
"WHERE STRIDES THE BEHEMOTH!"
MMMS WANTS YOU!
"THE HIDDEN MAN AND HIS RAYS OF DOOM!"




GIANT-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK
TALES TO ASTONISH
69 JULY
SEE OL' GREEN SKIN TRAPPED IN THE LAIR OF THE LEADER!
AS FOR HIGH-POCKETS, FIND OUT WHY HE'S WONDERING...
"OH WASP, WHERE IS THY STING?"



SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK
TALES TO ASTONISH
75 JAN
"NOT ALL MY POWER CAN SAVE ME!"
ALSO: PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER
"THE END OF THE QUEST!"

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